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1876

CONSTITUTIONS
OF THE
GRAND LODGE
OF
MASSACHUSETTS.
1876.

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1876

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

AND

GENERAL REGULATIONS

FOR

Freemas

The Government of the Craft under its Jurisdiction.

CONTAINING THE AMENDMENTS TO MARCH, 1876.

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ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINE.

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE MASTER, WARDENS, AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: —

SECTION 1. — JOHN T. HEARD, Grand Master, and his associates, the Grand Wardens and members of the Voluntary Association known as the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Massachusetts, and their successors, are hereby incorporated, and made a body politic, by the name of "THE MASTER, WARDENS, AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS," for the purpose of managing and administering the Charity funds belonging to said voluntary association, with power to have a common seal, to sue and be sued, to make and ordain, from time to time, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, for the government and management of the Corporation, provided the same be not repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth; and that they have all the privileges, and be subject to all the liabilities set forth in the forty-fourth Chapter of the Revised Statutes, so far as the same are applicable to Corporations for charitable purposes.

SECT. 2. — The said Corporation may take by purchase, gift, grant, or otherwise, and hold Real Estate not exceeding the value of *Two Hundred Thousand Dollars* [since increased to *Five Hundred Thousand Dollars*], and personal estate not exceeding the value of *Fifty Thousand Dollars.*

Sect. 3. — John T. Heard is hereby authorized to call the first meeting of said Corporation, by advertisement in two newspapers printed in Boston one week previous thereto, and appoint the time and place thereof, at which meeting the mode of calling future meetings shall be regulated.

Sect. 4. — This Act shall take effect on and after its passage.

House of Representatives, March 1, 1859.

Passed to be enacted.

CHARLES HALE, *Speaker.*

In Senate, March 1, 1859.

Passed to be enacted.

CHARLES A. PHELPS, *President.*

March 1, 1859.

Approved.

N. P. BANKS.

Secretary's Department, Boston, March 2, 1859.

A true copy.

Attest, OLIVER WARNER,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, the voluntary association known by the title of "THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE, AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS," has obtained and accepted an Act of Incorporation from the General Court of Massachusetts, dated March 1, 1859, with power "to make and ordain, from time to time, By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations for the government and management of the Corporation, provided the same be not repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth":

Now, therefore, the said Grand Lodge doth hereby make, ordain, and promulgate the following as the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Master, Wardens, and Members of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts.

Part First.

ARTICLE I.

SEAL. — BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SECTION 1. — That the seal heretofore used by the Grand Lodge, when acting as a voluntary association, shall be the Seal of the Corporation, to be kept and used by the Recording Grand Secretary.

SECT. 2. — The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Grand Master and eight other members, of whom four, at least, shall be permanent members of the Grand Lodge, and four may be chosen from the members of the subordinate Lodges in the Commonwealth, who shall, while they are Directors, be members of the Grand Lodge. At the Annual Election in December, 1869, four Directors, two of each class, shall be chosen for one year; and four, two of each class, for two years. At each Annual Meeting thereafter, four Directors, two of each class, shall be chosen for two years. Vacancies may be filled at any Stated Meeting of the Grand Lodge, for an unexpired term, the Director so chosen to be of the class vacated. The Board of Directors may appoint its own Clerk, who shall be Clerk of the Corporation, who shall

remain in office until his successor is elected and qualified. The Grand Master shall be President of the Board, and, in his absence, the Deputy Grand Master shall act and preside in his place. New members of the Board shall enter upon their duties after the annual installation of the Grand Master. Meetings of said Board to be called and notified in such manner and at such times as they shall determine; and the action of a majority of the Board to be binding; said Board, however, to be at all times subject to the direction of the Corporation.

In the absence of directions by the Corporation, said Board shall have full power to do and transact any and all business of the Corporation in any way relating to its property, real and personal; but shall not exercise any powers of the Grand Lodge not expressly given to it, and shall make a full report of its doings at each Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS. — RANK AND TITLES.

SECTION 1. — The officers and members of the Grand Lodge, and their rank and titles, shall be as follows: —

1. M.W. Grand Master.
2. R.W. Deputy Grand Master.
3. R.W. Senior Grand Warden.
4. R.W. Junior Grand Warden.
5. R.W. Past Grand Masters.
6. R.W. Past Deputy Gr. Masters.
7. R.W. Past Grand Wardens.
8. R.W. Grand Treasurer.
9. R.W. Recording Gr. Secretary.
10. R.W. Corresponding Gr. Sec'y.
11. R.W. Dist. Deputy Gr. Masters.
12. W. and Rev. Grand Chaplains.
13. W. Grand Marshal.
14. W. Grand Lecturers.
15. W. Senior Grand Deacon.
16. W. Junior Grand Deacon.
17. W. Grand Stewards.
18. W. Grand Sword-Bearer.
19. W. Grand Standard-Bearer.
20. W. Grand Pursuivants.
21. Bro. Grand Organist.
22. Bro. Grand Tyler.

All of whom, together with the Worshipful Masters, the Senior and Junior Wardens, and proxies of Lodges, under this jurisdiction, shall be entitled to vote as members of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Organist and Grand Tyler excepted.

ARTICLE III.

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING.

SECTION 1. — The Regular Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge shall be held in the city of Boston on the second Wednesday in December, March, June, and September, at 2 o'clock, P.M. There shall also be a Communication held annually on the 27th of December, commencing at 4 o'clock, P.M., or at such earlier hour as the Grand Master may direct, for the Installation of the Grand Officers and the celebration of the Anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist.

SECT. 2. — The meetings of the Grand Lodge, whether Regular or Special, shall be notified by publication in one or more newspapers printed in the city of Boston; such publication to be at least one week prior to the time appointed for holding such meetings. Special meetings may be called at pleasure by the presiding officer of the Corporation, or by vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV.

POWERS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

SECTION 1. — By the ancient Constitutions and usages of Freemasonry, the Grand Lodge, as the supreme Masonic authority in this Commonwealth, is invested with

certain original, essential, and unalterable powers and privileges. Among these is the power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, and of altering, repealing, and abrogating them; of establishing and preserving a uniform system of Work and Lectures; of issuing Dispensations and Charters for new Lodges, and of suspending or revoking the same for unmasonic conduct, the non-observance of the Regulations of this Grand Lodge, the non-payment of dues, or other neglect of duty.

SECT. 2. — The Grand Lodge has also the inherent power of investigating, regulating, and deciding all matters relative to the Craft, or to particular Lodges, or to individual Brothers; which power it may exercise either by itself or by such delegated authority as, in its wisdom and discretion, it may appoint; but in the Grand Lodge alone resides the power of revoking the Charter of Lodges and expelling Brethren from the Craft.

ARTICLE V.

QUALIFICATIONS OF GRAND OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. — No Brother shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Recording Grand Secretary, Corresponding Grand Secretary, or District Deputy Grand Master, unless he be a Past Master of a subordinate Lodge, under the jurisdiction of some Grand Lodge, or has heretofore held one of the aforesaid offices in this Grand Lodge; and neither of the officers here specially

enumerated shall, during his continuance in office, be Master or Warden of a subordinate Lodge.

SECT. 2. — No Brother shall be eligible to an office in Grand Lodge except he be a permanent member thereof, or a member of a subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VI.

ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. — The Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Recording Grand Secretary shall be elected by ballot, on the second Wednesday in December, annually; the election to commence at 3 o'clock, P.M. Two-thirds of the votes collected shall be necessary to a choice.

SECT. 2. — In case of the death, resignation, or declination of any of the above Grand Officers, the Grand Lodge may proceed to elect and install a sucessor at any Regular Communication after such event.

SECT. 3. — The Grand Master shall not be eligible for more than three years successively, except by unanimous vote of Grand Lodge, taken by ballot, at the Annual Meeting, on the question of re-nomination. If the ballot be clear in the affirmative, he may again be put in nomination for re-election.

SECT. 4. — The Grand Wardens shall be subject to the same regulations as in the case of Grand Master, except that the Junior Grand Warden may be advanced to the rank of Senior Grand Warden.

SECT. 5. — All Grand Officers not herein designated for election shall be appointed by the Grand Master.

SECT. 6. — In all elections by ballot, every member of the Grand Lodge shall be entitled to one vote, and one only, unless he be a representative of a subordinate Lodge. A member cannot delegate his right of voting to another.

SECT. 7. — No officer or permanent member of the Grand Lodge shall be entitled to more than one vote, unless he be also a Master or Warden of a subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction. A permanent member, resuming office in Grand Lodge, shall be entitled to one vote only.

ARTICLE VII.

INSTALLATION OF GRAND OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. — The officers of the Grand Lodge, elected and appointed, shall be annually installed on the ensuing Anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist. When that festival shall happen on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday, the installation shall take place on the following Tuesday. The Grand Master shall be installed by his immediate predecessor; or, in his absence, by the Senior Past Grand Master present; and in the absence of such Past Grand Master, by the Senior Past Master present.

SECT. 2. — In case the Grand Master elect cannot attend at the time appointed for his installation, he may be installed by proxy, on signifying his acceptance of the office. But such proxy must be a Past Grand Master, or the Senior Past Master present.

SECT. 3. — The Grand Master, if present, shall install the elective officers and his Deputy. If absent, his proxy shall install the Deputy Grand Master, who shall install the remaining officers. The appointed officers may be installed by the Deputy Grand Master. In case of the absence of the Deputy Grand Master, either of the Grand Wardens, the Grand Treasurer, or Recording Grand Secretary, they may be installed by proxies, who shall be past officers of corresponding rank, or Past Masters of subordinate Lodges and members of the Grand Lodge. The proxies for all other officers, except Grand Chaplain and Tyler, must also be members of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 4. — The several Grand Officers, previous to their installation, shall make the following declaration: —

I solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Mason, that, in the office of ———, I will, according to the best of my abilities, strictly comply with the Constitutions and Regulations of this Grand Lodge, and all other ancient Masonic usages, so far as the same shall come to my knowledge.

SECT. 5. — All Grand Officers, elected or appointed, when installed, shall be proclaimed by the Grand Marshal, and shall retain their stations until their successors are duly elected and installed.

SECT. 6. — No elected officer of the Grand Lodge, or of any subordinate Lodge, shall act as such until he is duly installed.

ARTICLE VIII.

POWER AND DUTY OF GRAND OFFICERS.

SECTION. 1. — The Grand Master enjoys all the powers and prerogatives conferred by the ancient Constitutions and the usages and landmarks of the Craft. He may convene any Lodge within his jurisdiction, preside therein (with his officers or otherwise), inspect their proceedings, and require their conformity with the regulations of the Grand Lodge; and for dereliction of duty, or other unmasonic conduct, he may suspend a Brother, or a Lodge, until the ensuing meeting of the Grand Lodge, when he shall present the reasons for such suspension in writing. He may also grant Dispensations for processions and conferring the degrees, and do all such other acts and deeds as are warranted or required of him by the regulations and the ancient usages of the Fraternity.

SECT. 2. — The Deputy Grand Master shall, in the absence of the Grand Master, preside in Grand Lodge, and perform such duties, and possess such authority, while the Grand Lodge is in session, as appertain to the Grand Master; and in case of the inability of the Grand Master, from sickness or other cause, to attend, he may, with the consent and approbation of the elective Grand Officers, call special meetings of the Grand Lodge, should the interest of the Craft, in their opinion, at any time require it. He may also, by permission of the Grand Master, in writing, call meetings of the Grand Officers, and such experienced Brethren as they may think proper

to invite, for consultation on matters relative to the Grand Lodge and its interests. All such meetings, however, not having the approbation of the Grand Master, shall be deemed irregular.

Sect. 3. — In case of the death or resignation of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall be, *ex officio*, Grand Master, until a successor be chosen.

Sect. 4. — The Grand Wardens are to assist the Grand Master, in the Grand Lodge, and, whenever required, are to attend him; and, while he presides in any particular subordinate Lodge, are to act there as his Wardens.

Sect. 5. — In the absence of the Junior Grand Warden, the Senior Past Grand Warden present shall wear his jewel. In the absence of all Past Grand Wardens, the Senior Past Master present shall act *pro tempore.*

Sect. 6. — In the absence of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden shall preside; and, in his absence, the Junior Grand Warden. In the absence of each of them, the Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, and Grand Wardens, according to seniority; and if no officer of either grade be present, the Senior Past Master is to preside, unless he waive his right in favor of another Brother, who is a Past Master. In either of these cases, the presiding officer (unless he be a Past Grand Master) shall wear the jewel of the Deputy Grand Master.

Sect. 7. — The Grand Treasurer shall have the charge of the personal property and funds of the Grand Lodge; shall give bonds for the faithful discharge of his trust, in such sum and with such sureties as the Grand Lodge shall

require: and shall from time to time invest all unappropriated funds in his hands in such manner as the Board of Directors shall direct. He shall receive all moneys from the District Deputy Grand Masters, as well as all other moneys paid to the Grand Lodge; shall pay all bills passed by the Board of Directors; and shall have in his care all the regalia not entrusted to the Senior Grand Steward, and all charters, records, seals and regalia returned to the Grand Lodge. He shall keep an accurate account of all money by him received and paid; and shall annually render an account thereof, with a schedule of the funds of the Grand Lodge, to the Board of Directors; shall deliver to his successor in office the funds and all other property of the Grand Lodge entrusted to his care, taking duplicate receipts for the same, one of which receipts he shall deposit with the Recording Grand Secretary.

Sect. 8. — The Recording Grand Secretary shall give seasonable notice, in a public paper, of each Regular Communication of the Grand Lodge; and shall notify, by letter, all officers and permanent members of the Grand Lodge, together with the Master and Wardens of the subordinate Lodges through their respective Secretaries. Special meetings may be notified in the manner above provided. He shall make a correct record of all the transactions of the Grand Lodge; receive petitions, applications and appeals, and lay them before the Grand Master; shall fill, attest, and affix the Grand Seal to all Warrants, Charters, Commissions and Certificates, by order of the Grand Master; and shall keep a list of all

the Lodges under this jurisdiction, according to seniority. He shall present the chairman of every committee with a copy of the vote of his appointment, and shall attend all committees, with such documents as are in his possession, when required; and record all reports of committees which may be accepted by the Grand Lodge. He shall annually, in the month of January, forward to each member of the Grand Lodge one copy, and to each District Deputy Grand Master such number of copies of the edicts and regulations of the Grand Lodge, which have been passed the preceding year, as shall be directed by the Grand Master, and all such other transactions of the Grand Lodge as may be necessary for the information and regulation of the subordinate Lodges, in which shall be included a correct list of the officers of the Grand Lodge and District Deputy Grand Masters for the current year. He shall make a transcript of the records in the month of September annually, immediately after the Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Sect. 9. — The Corresponding Grand Secretary shall, if required by the Grand Master, answer, under his direction, any foreign communication made to the Grand Lodge; and when present, if desired by the Grand Master, read all communications to the Grand Lodge. It shall also be his duty, from time to time, to lay before the Grand Lodge such matters of Masonic interest as may come to his knowledge. He shall also be the custodian of the original record books of the Grand Lodge, receiving from the Recording Grand Secrerary each volume, as soon as completed, and keep the same in some secure

place, to be approved by the Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 10. — The District Deputy Grand Masters shall visit the Lodges in their respective Districts, and inspect their By-Laws, Records, and mode of Work, once a year at least, and before the last week in November; but, if they deem it for the interest of Masonry, they may delegate their duties in distant Lodges to some suitable Brother. They shall have power to grant Dispensations for initiation, and, in cases of emergency, for public processions; shall communicate to the Lodges all edicts and regulations of the Grand Lodge, and furnish them with all such diplomas as they shall be entitled to; shall receive and receipt for all dues to the Grand Lodge; receive the returns of the Lodges, and make their remarks thereon. They shall annually transmit their returns, and all moneys in their hands, to the Grand Treasurer, on or before the first day of December; and if they shall fail to comply with this regulation, unless prevented by sickness, or by some other cause beyond their control, they shall not be eligible to reappointment. They shall be reimbursed their *necessary* expenses in visiting the Lodges; but shall present their accounts to the Board of Directors for allowance; and each District Deputy Grand Master, on receiving from the Grand Treasurer the jewel of his office and the records of the District over which he is appointed, shall give to the Grand Treasurer a receipt in the following form, viz.: —

Whereas, I, —— ——, have been appointed and duly commissioned District Deputy Grand Master of Massachusetts, for

the —— Masonic District, and have received the collar and jewel appertaining to said office, and the book of records of said District, I hereby promise to return the same, at the expiration or revocation of my Commission, to the Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; and, in default thereof, I promise to pay on demand, to the order of said Treasurer, or whoever may hold the office of Treasurer of said Grand Lodge, the sum of fifty dollars.

Sect. 11. — There shall be two Grand Chaplains appointed by the Grand Master on the day of his installation, who shall attend the Quarterly Communications and other meetings of the Grand Lodge, and perform such clerical duties as are suitable to the occasion and as are established by the usages of the Fraternity.

Sect. 12. — The Grand Marshal shall direct the organization of the Grand Lodge before it is opened; collect from the members and petitioners in the Grand Lodge all communications, and place them before the Recording Grand Secretary; he shall introduce visitors, direct the formation of processions, call the Lodges at every Communication, and communicate and execute all commands of the Grand Master not otherwise provided for.

Sect. 13. — The Grand Deacons are to communicate messages, and attend the Grand Master in all processions; and in the absence of either of them, the Grand Master shall appoint a member to act *pro tempore*.

Sect. 14. — There shall be four Grand Stewards annually appointed. The Senior Grand Steward shall have in his charge all the jewels, clothing and furniture of the Grand Lodge; and at the Annual Communication, and

previous to the choice of officers, he shall render an accurate inventory of everything committed to his care, shall deliver the same to his successor in office, taking duplicate receipts therefor, one of which receipts he shall deposit with the Grand Treasurer. He shall, with the assistance of his brother Stewards, properly distribute the jewels and clothing, and collect the same at the closing of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 15. — The Grand Sword-Bearer shall take rank as assistant Grand Marshal, and, in the absence of his principal, shall act as his substitute.

SECT. 16. There shall be two Grand Pursuivants annually appointed. Their station shall be at the inner door of the Grand Lodge; and it shall be their duty to attend to the admission of the officers, members, and visitors; to see that they appear in Grand Lodge suitably clothed, and, under the direction of the Grand Marshal, that they take their proper stations. They shall also assist the Grand Marshal, and precede in all public processions of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 17. Three Past Masters shall be annually appointed Grand Lecturers, whose duty it shall be to exemplify, for the benefit of the Brethren generally, the work and lectures of the several degrees, at such times and in such places as the Grand Master shall direct. They shall also impart instruction to any Lodge requiring their services, — the Lodge paying them a reasonable compensation therefor. It shall also be their duty to visit and instruct any Lodge, under this jurisdiction, at the expense of the Grand Lodge, whenever it shall be made to

appear to the satisfaction of the Grand Master that said Lodge is unable to bear the expense; and they shall report to the Grand Master, in writing, whenever and as often as they shall discover any deviations, either in the Work or Lectures, from the system adopted by the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 18. — The M.W. Grand Master shall annually appoint a Library Committee, who shall have sole charge of the Library.

SECT. 19. — The Grand Tyler is to guard the outer door, and see that none enter previously to the opening of the Grand Lodge, except the officers and members, unless by special permission of the Grand Master.

Part Second.

GRAND CHARITY FUND.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. — The Charity Fund established by this Grand Lodge shall by styled "The Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts," and shall consist of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

SECT. 2. — The Charity Fund shall be held in the name of the Grand Lodge, and shall be under the direction of a Board of Trustees; and said Board shall be styled "The Trustees of the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts."

SECT. 3. — The interest arising annually from this Fund shall be appropriated, as the Grand Lodge shall direct, for the relief of such poor and distressed Brethren, their widows and orphans, as may be deemed worthy of assistance; but all interest unappropriated at the end of each year shall be paid over by the Trustees to the Treasurer of the Grand Lodge. *Provided, nevertheless*, That if this Fund shall at any time be reduced below the sum prescribed in Section 1, all such unappropriated interest shall be added yearly to the principal, until it shall again amount to Fifty Thousand Dollars.

Part Third.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE I.

AUDITING COMMITTEE.

SECTION 1. — At each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, an Auditing Committee, consisting of three members of the Grand Lodge, shall be chosen by ballot, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer and report to the Grand Lodge at the ensuing Annual Communication, and before the election of officers, an account of the receipts and expenditures of the preceding year, with a statement of all funds in the hands of the Grand Treasurer. They shall also, annually, in November, examine the Records of the Recording Grand Secretary, see that they are properly kept and accurately transcribed, and report thereon at the Annual Communication.

ARTICLE II.

DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS FOR NEW LODGES.

SECTION 1. — Dispensations for holding new Lodges may be issued by the Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge, on the petition of not less than seven Master Masons of known skill and good standing; provided the petition be

countersigned by the District Deputy Grand Master within whose District the petitioners reside, and recommended by the Lodge situated nearest to the place where the new Lodge is proposed to be located.

SECT. 2. — The fee for such Dispensation shall be ten dollars, to be paid to the Grand Treasurer, and five dollars to the Recording Grand Secretary; and every Dispensation shall be returned to the Grand Lodge, at the expiration of one year from the date thereof, together with an attested transcript of all the proceedings and of the By-Laws of the Lodge working under the same. If these be approved by the Grand Lodge, a Charter of Constitution may be issued to the petitioners, for which they shall pay to the Grand Treasurer the further sum of fifty dollars, forty-five of which shall be for the funds of the Grand Lodge and five for the Recording Grand Secretary.

SECT. 3. — The form of petition for a Dispensation shall be as follows: —

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: —

We, the undersigned, being Master Masons in good standing, and having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavors to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of Freemasonry; and, for the convenience of our respective dwellings and other good reasons we are desirous of forming a new Lodge, to be named ——. We, therefore, with the approbation of the District Deputy Grand Master, and the Lodge nearest our residence, respectfully pray for a Dispensation empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge at ——, on the

—— of every month, and there to discharge the duties of Ancient York Masonry in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the Order and the Laws of the Grand Lodge; and we have nominated and do recommend Brother *A B* to be the first Master, Brother *C D* to be the first Senior Warden, and Brother *E F* to be the first Junior Warden of the said Lodge. The prayer of this petition being granted, we promise strict obedience to the commands of the Grand Master and the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 4. — Every new Lodge shall be solemnly constituted by the Grand Master and his officers, or by some competent Brother especially commissioned by him for the purpose.*

ARTICLE III.

SURRENDER, FORFEITURE, AND REVOCATION OF CHARTERS.

SECTION 1. — Every Charter surrendered to the Grand Lodge, whether or not with the intention of being resumed at a future period, shall be accompanied with the By-Laws, Records, Seal, Regalia, Funds, and other property of the Lodge of every description; and all the property of a Lodge surrendering its Charter, with the intention of resuming it, shall be held by the Grand Lodge, in trust, until such time as the Charter shall be restored, or the intention of reclaiming it abandoned. The interest arising from said funds and other property shall be made a part of the funds of the Grand Lodge, and, in case of

* The officers of a Lodge working under Dispensation are not entitled to seats as representatives in Grand Lodge. "No new Lodge is owned, nor their officers admitted into the Grand Lodge, unless it be regularly *constituted* and registered." — *Vide Ancient Mas. Reg.*, *Art. XII.*

forfeiture, the principal shall be devoted to the same object. No Charter thus deposited shall be restored, unless the provisions of this section shall have been strictly complied with, nor unless seven of the petitioners for its restoration were members of the Lodge at the time of its surrender; and it shall be the duty of the petitioners to notify the District Deputy Grand Master of the District, and the Lodge nearest to their residence, of their intention to petition for the restoration.

Sect. 2. — Every Charter, when declared forfeited, shall be returned to the Grand Lodge, with the Records, By-Laws, Seal, Regalia, Funds, and other property of the Lodge, of every description; and all members of a Lodge who shall refuse to make such surrender, or who shall vote to divide the funds thereof among themselves, or to appropriate them in any other way than is herein designated, shall be liable to expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Freemasonry.

Sect. 3. — If at any time it shall be found necessary to suspend or cancel the Warrant or Charter of any Lodge under this jurisdiction, for irregular or unmasonic conduct, the members of said Lodge, at the time of its having incurred such penalty, shall be disqualified to visit or join any other Lodge, without special permission of the Grand Lodge obtained on memorial.

Sect. 4. — Any Mason knowingly assisting at the Work of a Lodge whose Warrant or Charter has been suspended or cancelled, shall be liable to expulsion from the rights of Masonry.

ARTICLE IV. [PART III.]

TRIALS, SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS.

SECTION 1. — The Grand Master shall annually appoint a Board of five members of the Grand Lodge, to be styled *Commissioners of Trials;* but he may in his discretion appoint a Special Board of Commissioners for the trial of any given cause. All Commissioners shall be Past or Present Masters. The first named of said Board shall be the President thereof, and three members shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of the President the Board may elect a President *pro tempore.* Whenever a member of a Lodge, or a Brother under this jurisdiction, shall be accused of any offence, which, if proved, would subject him to expulsion or suspension from the rights and privileges of Masonry, the proceedings in the premises shall be conducted agreeably to the following rules: —

I. The accusation shall be made in writing, with specifications of the offence, under the signature of a Master Mason, and, if the accused is a member of any Lodge within the jurisdiction, shall be given in charge to the Master thereof, who shall summon his Lodge to act upon the accusation. If the Lodge by a majority vote of its members present determine that the charges require investigation, then the accusation shall be given in charge to the President or President *pro tempore* of the Board, who, under direction of the Board, shall cause the accused to be served with an attested copy of the charges, together with a summons to appear, at a time and place to be named in said summons, and make such answer to the charges and accusations as he may desire. The summons shall be

served upon the accused fourteen days, at least, before the return day thereof. Such appearance may be made in person before the President or President *pro tempore*, or by filing an answer in writing with such President. If the residence of the accused be out of the Commonwealth, and unknown, the Commissioners may proceed to examine the charges and accusation *ex parte;* but if known and out of the Commonwealth, a summons shall be sent him, by mail or otherwise, sixty days, at least, before the time appointed for his appearance. The service and the return thereof shall be according to regulations to be made by the Commissioners, and, when so made, shall be conclusive.

In case of unaffiliated or sojourning Masons, the accusation made as aforesaid shall be given in charge to the President or President *pro tempore* of the Board, and if the Board of Commissioners shall determine that the charges require investigation, the Board shall thereafter proceeed in the same manner as above required in the case of an affiliated Mason whose Lodge has determined that the charges require investigation.

II. The examination upon the charge and accusation shall be had at some convenient place and time, to be designated by the Commissioners, of which due notice shall be given, and no visitors shall be admitted, except as counsel or witnesses. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commissioners, the testimony may be taken by the President or President *pro tempore*, who shall reduce the same to writing, to be submitted to the Board. Witnesses, if Masons, shall testify on their honor as such. Other witnesses shall be duly sworn before their testimony is taken.

III. Any Brother duly authorized may appear as counsel in support of, or in opposition to, the charges during the taking of the testimony and in the argument of the cause.

IV. A full record of the proceedings in each case, whatever may be the result thereof, including the testimony taken, the action of the Commissioners thereon, and the sentence, if any, imposed upon the accused, to be signed by the Commissioners acting in such case, shall be transmitted to the Recording Grand Secretary, by him to be placed on file and presented to the Grand Lodge at the next Quarterly Communication. The action of the Commissioners, including the sentence, if any, imposed upon the respondent, if approved, shall stand as the judgment of the Grand Lodge. The finding of the Commissioners shall be subject to correction or review by the Grand Lodge, who will order a new trial, or otherwise dispose of the case.

V. Any lodge, may, notwithstanding the provisions of this article, proceed to try any Brother, subject to its jurisdiction, against whom such an accusation as is therein contemplated has been made, *provided* such Lodge, by a majority vote, at the next Stated Communication after the accusation shall have been presented, shall decide in favor of such a trial. In such case all the proceedings in respect to service upon the respondent, the time, place and method of trial, including the sentence, the record and the report to the Grand Lodge, shall conform to the foregoing rules, so far as the same shall be applicable.

SECT. 2. Any five members of a Lodge, or the District Deputy Grand Master, may impeach the Master of said Lodge before the Grand Master, who shall order an investigation of the charges; and if, in his opinion, they are well founded and of a character to justify the proceeding, he may suspend the delinquent and summon him to appear for trial before said Commissioners, or such special Commissioners as the Grand Master may appoint.

The foregoing rules, as far as the same shall be practicable, shall be observed in the trial of a Master of a Lodge before such Commissioners.

SECT. 3. The Commissioners shall receive for their services, and for necessary expenses in each case, such compensation as the Grand Master shall determine and allow, upon the certificate of the Commissioners.

SECT. 4. An expulsion or suspension of a Brother from any Masonic Body other than a Lodge of Master Masons, or a Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over such Brother, shall not operate as an expulsion or suspension from Masonry, or from the Lodge of which he is a member.

SECT. 5. No Lodge under this jurisdiction shall expel or suspend a member from the rights of Masonry.

SECT. 6. Forfeiture or suspension of membership shall not be imposed until the delinquent has been duly notified of the time, when and place where action will be taken in his case. If the residence of the delinquent is out of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, or unknown, no notice shall be required.

ARTICLE V.

APPEAL AND RESTORATION.

SECTION 1. — As the Grand Lodge, when congregated, is a representation of every individual member of the Fraternity, it necessarily possesses a supreme superintending authority, and the power of finally deciding on every case which concerns the interest of the Craft. Any Brother, therefore, who may feel aggrieved by the decision

of any Lodge, or other Masonic authority, acting under this jurisdiction, may appeal to the Grand Lodge against such decision. The appeal must be made in writing, specifying the particular grievance complained of, and transmitted to the Recording Grand Secretary ten days at least before the ensuing meeting of the Grand Lodge. A notice and copy of the appeal shall also, and at the same time, be sent by the appellant to the party against whose decision the appeal is made.

SECT. 2. — Whenever this Grand Lodge shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a subordinate Lodge, suspending or expelling a Brother, and shall restore him to the benefits and privileges of Masonry, he shall not thereby be restored to membership within the body from which he was suspended or expelled, without its unanimous consent.

ARTICLE VI.

COMMITTEES — THEIR APPOINTMENT, ETC.

SECTION 1. — All committees, whose election is not herein provided for, shall be appointed by the Grand Master, or, in his absence, by the presiding officer, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 2. — No Brother, not a member of the Grand Lodge, shall be appointed on any committee therein. This, however, is not intended to militate against the right of the Grand Master to commission any Brother, in writing, for a specific purpose.

SECT. 3. — All committees, chosen or appointed, shall report their proceedings, in writing, at the next Commu-

nication after their appointment. The first Brother chosen or appointed shall be chairman, and shall furnish each of the committee with a copy of the vote of his appointment, as received from the Recording Grand Secretary, and designate the time and place of meeting.

SECT. 4. — The expenses of all committees shall be paid by the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE VII.

REGALIA — DRESS IN GRAND LODGE.

SECTION 1. — The Jewels of the Grand Officers shall be as follows: —

I. The Jewel of the Grand Master shall be the compasses extended to 45°, with the segment of a circle at the points, and a gold plate included, on which is represented an eye, eradiated, with a triangle, also eradiated.

The Jewel of the Deputy Grand Master shall be the Compasses and Square united, with a five-pointed star in the centre.

The Jewels of the District Deputy Grand Masters shall be the Compasses extended to 45°, with the segment of a circle at the points, with a crescent in the centre.

Senior Grand Warden, the Level.

Junior Grand Warden, the Plumb.

Grand Treasurer, a chased Key.

Recording Grand Secretary, crossed Pens, with a tie.

Corresponding Grand Secretary, crossed Pens, with a tie.

Grand Chaplain, a Book with a Triangle.

Grand Marshal, crossed Rods.

Grand Deacons, Dove and Olive Branch.

Grand Stewards, Cornucopia.

Grand Sword-Bearer, crossed Swords.
Grand Standard-Bearer, Banner.
Grand Pursuivants, a Rod and a Sword crossed.
Grand Lecturer, open Book upon Square and Compasses.
Grand Organist, Lyre.
Grand Tyler, Sword.

Each Past Grand Master, Past Deputy Grand Master and Past Grand Warden shall be distinguished by the Jewel prescribed for the office he has filled, with this difference, that such Jewel shall be fixed within a circle or oval of gold or metal gilt. It shall be worn over the left breast, pendant to a purple ribbon.

The Jewels of all the Grand Officers, with the exception of the District Deputy Grand Masters, shall be within a wreath composed of a sprig of Acacia and an ear of Wheat.

II. The Collars of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, shall be chains of gold or metal gilt.

The Collars of the other officers of the Grand Lodge shall be purple, four inches broad, with narrow edging of gold lace, and ornamented in the centre with a pomegranate embroidered in gold.

III. The Apron of the Grand Master shall be of white lambskin, lined with purple, ornamented with the blazing Sun, embroidered in gold in the centre; on the edging the pomegranate and lotus, with the seven-eared wheat at each corner, and also on the fall, — all in gold embroidery, the fringe of gold bullion, with purple edging and strings.

The Apron of the Deputy Grand Master shall be of the same material and lining, having the emblem of his office in gold embroidered in the centre, and the pomegranate and lotus alternately embroidered in gold on the edging.

The Aprons of the other Grand Officers shall be of white lambskin, lined with purple; edging three and a half inches wide; with purple strings; ornamented with gold, having the emblems of their office, in gold, in the centre.

IV. The Grand Officers shall wear gauntlets of purple, with the emblem of their office, embroidered in gold, within a wreath.

Sect. 2. — The Apron of a Master Mason should be a plain white lambskin, fourteen inches wide by twelve inches deep, with sky-blue lining and edging, having three rosettes of the same color. No other color shall be allowed, and no other ornament should be worn, except by officers and past officers of Lodges, who may have the emblems of their offices in silver, on the Apron.

An officer of a subordinate Lodge should wear a blue Sash; a blue-velvet Collar, trimmed with silver lace, and a silver Jewel.

The Jewels of a subordinate Lodge shall be as follows: —

The Jewel of Past Master shall be the blazing Sun, within the Compasses, extended on a Quadrant; the Master, the Square; Senior Warden, the Level; Junior Warden, the Plumb; Treasurer, the crossed Keys; Secretary, the crossed Pens; Chaplain, the Bible, within a circle; Deacons, the Compasses and Square united; Marshal, Baton, in a square; Stewards, Cornucopia, in a circle; Organist, Lyre, in a circle; Tyler, crossed Swords.

Sect. 3. — No Brother shall, on any pretence, be admitted into the Grand Lodge, or any subordinate Lodge, without his proper clothing, nor shall any officer of the

Grand Lodge, or representative of a subordinate Lodge (proxies excepted), be allowed to vote, without his Jewel, unless he offers a satisfactory excuse and have permission of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE VIII.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 1. — Lodges of Instruction may be holden in any town or city in the Commonwealth with the permission of the Grand Master, in writing; provided, however, that not less than two Lodges shall apply for such permission. The Brethren to whom such permission is granted shall be answerable for the proceedings of such Lodge of Instruction, and responsible that the mode of working therein adopted has received the sanction of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 2. — Notice of the times and places of meeting of such Lodges of Instruction shall be given to the Brethren in the vicinity, who shall be at liberty to join the same, subject to such rules, regulations, and assessments as may be agreed upon.

SECT. 3. — Each Lodge of Instruction shall keep a record of its proceedings, and of the names of all visiting Brethren present at each meeting, and of Brethren appointed to hold office; and such record shall be produced when called for by the Grand Master, or by the Lodge granting its sanction.

SECT. 4. — The Grand Master shall have power to sus-

pend or dissolve any Lodge of Instruction, when, in his opinion, there shall be sufficient cause therefor.

SECT. 5. — Any Brother, being a member of a subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction, may become a member of any Lodge of Instruction in this Commonwealth by complying with the regulations thereof.

Part Fourth.

SUBORDINATE LODGES.

ARTICLE I.

POWERS AND DUTIES.

SECTION 1. — All Lodges under this jurisdiction have a right to convene as Free and Accepted Masons, to receive and enter Apprentices, pass Fellow-Crafts, and raise Master Masons, and assess fees therefor; to choose officers annually; establish funds for charitable purposes, and transact all matters appertaining to Masonry, agreeably to their Charters, the laws of the Grand Lodge, and the ancient usages of the Craft.

SECT. 2. — The Lodges under this jurisdiction shall be formed into Districts by the Grand Master, for each of which a District Deputy Grand Master shall be annually appointed; and it shall be the duty of every Master, or presiding officer of a Lodge, when notified of the intended official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master, to convene his Lodge, receive him as the representative of the Grand Lodge, resign the chair to him while making his official communications, submit to his inspection the By-Laws, Records, and mode of Work, and deliver

to him the return of the Lodge, and the dues to the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 3. — The Lodges under this jurisdiction shall make an annual return to their District Deputy Grand Master, of their officers and members, of all candidates initiated, crafted, and raised, agreeably to the form established by the Grand Lodge; for which purpose they shall be furnished with suitable blanks.

SECT. 4. — Should any Lodge neglect to make its returns and payments to the Grand Lodge for the space of two years, the Master and Wardens of such Lodge shall not be permitted to attend, in their official capacity, any meeting of the Grand Lodge, until such returns and payments are made; and should the delinquency continue for three years, the Charter, Funds, and Regalia of such Lodge may be declared forfeited to the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 5. — No petition for the removal of a Lodge from the place in which it is located shall be sustained in Grand Lodge, unless said petition is sanctioned by the District Deputy Grand Master of the District where said Lodge is situated, and has the approbation of the Lodge nearest the place where the said Lodge is intended to be held; the same to be signified, in writing, to the Grand Lodge. Nor shall any Lodge hold meetings, unless authorized by the Grand Master, in any place other than the one designated in their Charter, under the penalty of a forfeiture thereof.

No changes by the Legislature of the Commonwealth, of Municipal Corporations, or boundaries of the territories thereof, shall be held to affect in any way the juris-

diction of Lodges. Lodges located by their Charters in particular sections of Municipalities shall have the same jurisdiction therein as if said sections were entire Municipalities, and where the boundaries of such sections are uncertain, they may be determined by the Grand Master for the time being.

SECT. 6. — The majority of the members of any Lodge, when duly assembled, shall have the right to instruct their Master and Wardens as their representatives in the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 7. — As every warranted Lodge is a constituent part of the Grand Lodge, in which assembly all the powers of the Fraternity reside, it is clear that no other authority can destroy the power granted by a Warrant. If, therefore, the majority of any Lodge should determine to leave the Institution, or leave that Lodge, the Constitutions, or power of assembling, remains with the rest of the members who adhere to their allegiance. If the number remaining, shall, however, be reduced to less than seven, the Charter shall be returned, agreeably to the regulation in such cases provided.

SECT. 8. — If the Master and Wardens of any Lodge be summoned to attend, or to produce the Charter, books, papers, or accounts of their Lodge, to the Grand Master, or the District Deputy Grand Master within whose jurisdiction it is located, or any committee authorized by the Grand Lodge, and refuse to comply with said summons, or give satisfactory reasons for non-compliance, they may be suspended, and the proceedings shall be notified to the

Grand Lodge; when, in case of contumacy, expulsion or revocation of Charter shall be the penalty.

SECT. 9. — All Lodges are particularly bound to observe the same usages and customs. Every deviation, therefore, from the established mode of working is highly improper, and ought not to be countenanced. In order to preserve this uniformity, and to cultivate a good understanding among the Craft, some members of every Lodge should be deputed to visit the other Lodges as often as may be convenient; and it shall be the duty of the Master and Wardens to qualify themselves in the Work and Lectures sanctioned by the Grand Lodge, that they may be enabled to instruct their respective Lodges.

SECT. 10. — Each Lodge shall pay annually towards the support of the Grand Lodge, ten dollars; and five dollars for every candidate by them initiated; and shall receive from the Grand Lodge as many Diplomas as they may make Master Masons.

ARTICLE II.

PROXIES OF LODGES.

SECTION 1. — It is the duty of every Lodge to be represented at the Communications of the Grand Lodge, by its Master and Wardens, or by a proxy duly commissioned under the seal of the Lodge, and the attestation of the Master and Secretary; and, that there may be no excuse for neglect of this duty, each Lodge is authorized to appoint any Master Mason of regular standing, not

holding office in the Grand Lodge, and being a member of said Lodge, a proxy to represent them in the Grand Lodge; and such proxy shall have a right to a seat in the Grand Lodge during the Masonic year in which he was appointed, and to a vote when the Master and Wardens of the Lodge he represents shall not either of them be present.

Sect. 2. — Any Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, but established beyond the territorial limits of Massachusetts, may constitute an honorary member of such Lodge to act as its proxy in Grand Lodge. The letter, by which a Lodge shall appoint a proxy, is to be in form and substance as follows, viz.: —

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts: —

SEAL.

—— ——

Master of

——

Lodge.

Be it Known, That Brother —— ——, of ——, having been chosen by the members of —— Lodge, in ——, to represent said Lodge in Grand Lodge the ensuing year, I do by these presents, in their behalf, constitute and appoint him their representative; for them to appear, and upon all subjects relating to the Craft in general and to said Lodge in particular, to act and decide as fully as though we were personally present.

Confirming the acts of our beloved Brother, in his capacity aforesaid, we pray that he may enjoy all the privileges and protection to which we are entitled.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of our Lodge to be affixed, this —— day of ——, A.L. 58—.

Attest,

——— ———, *Secretary.*

SECT. 3. — Every Lodge represented by proxy in the Grand Lodge shall issue the commission annually. All commissions of proxies shall expire with the closing of the Grand Lodge on the festival of St. John the Evangelist, or the day of installation; and no Brother shall represent more than one Lodge at the same time, either as representative or proxy.

SECT. 4. — Every subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction shall be allowed three votes in all elections and other business in this Grand Lodge, whether represented by one or more of its representatives.

ARTICLE III.

INITIATION OF CANDIDATES.

SECTION 1. — All applications for initiation shall be made in writing over the signature of the applicant, and in the following form: —

FORM OF PETITION.

To the W. Master, Wardens and Members of ——— Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons: —

The subscriber respectfully represents that, having long entertained a favorable opinion of your ancient institution, he is desirous, if found worthy, to be admitted a member thereof.

My full name is .....

My place of residence is .....

Date of Birth .....

Place of Birth .....

Occupation .....

I have ——— before applied for initiation.

Signed, ——— ———.

[*Date.*]

RECOMMENDATION.

I, —— ——, member of —— Lodge aforesaid, hereby recommend said —— —— for initiation.

Signed, —— ——.

No candidate shall be balloted for who has not been proposed at a Stated Monthly Meeting, and who shall not have stood so proposed from one Regular Monthly Meeting to another, without a Dispensation therefor; nor shall a candidate, in any event, be balloted for, into whose moral character a strict inquiry has not been made, and whose name has not been borne on the notifications for the meeting at which he is to be balloted for. It shall not be regular for any Lodge which does not usually issue written or printed notifications of its meetings, to ballot upon any application for the degrees when there is a Dispensation therefor, at any but Stated Monthly Meetings, without written or printed notifications to the members of the Lodge, with the name of the candidate borne thereon.

Sect. 2. — No candidate, whose application may be rejected by a Lodge, shall be proposed in any other Lodge under this jurisdiction, within six months after such rejection; nor shall any candidate be proposed in any Lodge, other than the one to which he first applied, without a written recommendation from six members of the said Lodge, of whom the Master and Wardens shall be three. And when the Master and Wardens are unwilling so to recommend a candidate who has been rejected, it shall be their duty to communicate

such rejection to the Grand Lodge, or to the District Deputy Grand Master, who shall immediately communicate the same to all the Lodges under his jurisdiction. And if any Mason knowingly assist, or recommend for initiation, *to any Lodge whatever*, any candidate rejected as aforesaid, who may not have obtained a recommendation, and also waited the required six months as before provided, such Mason shall be expelled from the Institution, or subjected to such other penalty as the Grand Lodge may see cause to impose.

Any candidate residing within this State, whose application has been rejected, who shall be initiated in any other Lodge, without the recommendation aforesaid, shall be deemed a clandestine Mason, and shall not be allowed to visit any Lodge within this jurisdiction, and the Craft is hereby forbidden to hold Masonic intercourse with him.

No person who has been rejected in any Lodge in this jurisdiction, and who shall have procured his degrees in any other jurisdiction, without the recommendation prescribed in Section 2 of this Article, and without the written permission of the Grand Master, shall be admitted as a visitor in any Lodge of this jurisdiction, or be entitled to any recognition as a Mason, until he shall have been formally healed by the Grand Lodge, and notice thereof shall have been duly communicated by the Recording Grand Secretary to all the Lodges of this jurisdiction.

Sect. 3. — The general rule which governs the Order in the admission of members is, that such admission is to be sanctioned by entire unanimity; and so sacred and fundamental does the Grand Lodge conceive this rule to

be, that no candidate shall be initiated in any Lodge, under this jurisdiction, without a clear and unanimous vote in his favor. Every member present shall vote on the application, unless excused by the Lodge.

SECT. 4. — By the ancient regulations, the physical deformity of an individual operates as a bar to his admission into the Fraternity. But in view of the fact that this regulation was adopted for the government of the Craft at a period when they united the character of *operative* with that of *speculative* Masons, this Grand Lodge, in common, it is believed, with most of her sister Grand Lodges in this country and in Europe, has authorized such a construction of the regulation as that where the deformity does not amount to an inability to meet the requirements of the ritual, and honestly to acquire the means of subsistence, it constitutes no hindrance to initiation.

SECT. 5. — Application for initiation shall be made to the Lodge in the town or city where the petitioner resides, if there be a Lodge therein; but if there be none, then he shall apply to the Lodge nearest to his residence, and it shall be the duty of such Lodge to make due and careful inquiry as to the moral standing of the petitioner, of some respectable and reliable person or persons living in the place of his residence, before he shall be initiated. And no person residing in a town or city where there is a Lodge shall be initiated in any other town or city, without the written consent and recommendation of the Master, one Warden, and two members, at least, of each Lodge in the town or city where he resides; provided,

however, that where there are more than two Lodges in any town or city, such consent and recommendation shall not be required of more than two of them. Nor shall any candidate be received from any other State (he being a resident thereof) where a regular Lodge is established, without the written permission of the Grand Master of such State.

SECT. 6. — No Entered Apprentice or Fellow-Craft, initiated or passed in any Lodge within the United States, shall be passed or raised in any Lodge under this jurisdiction, without the consent of the Master and Wardens of the Lodge in which he was first admitted, or a Dispensation from the Grand Master.

SECT. 7. — Any member of a subordinate Lodge may object to the initiation, passing, or raising of a candidate, at any time before the degree is conferred; and it shall be the duty of the Lodge to investigate such objections before proceeding further with the candidate.

SECT. 8. — The fee demanded by a Lodge for initiating, crafting, and raising a Mason shall not be less than twenty-five dollars, including the fee to the Grand Lodge; and no Lodge under this jurisdiction shall take notes of hand for fees, or grant any time of credit therefor.

SECT. 9. — No Lodge, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, shall initiate, craft, or raise a candidate.

SECT.. 10. — No Lodge shall hold more than one Communication on the same day, *nor confer either of the three degrees upon more than* FIVE *candidates at one Communication.* No Lodge shall permit more than one candidate

to be present at the same time in the first section of the first degree, nor in the second section of the third degree.

NOTE. — In the discussion of this Article in Grand Lodge, the first section being under consideration, the opinion was expressed, and acquiesced in, that the clause in said section which requires the names of candidates to be borne on the notifications for the meeting at which the balloting takes place, is not intended to affect the Lodges in the country which do not issue written notifications.

Part Fifth.

MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS.

SECTION 1. — No business other than that appertaining to the Work and Lectures, shall be transacted in a Lodge while open on the first or second degree. All general business, such as the election and installation of officers, the discussion of questions relating to the general interests of the Fraternity, and the local affairs of the Lodge, shall be transacted in a Master's Lodge.

SECT. 2. — The Lodge shall admit as members such only as are Master Masons. Any Brother having been discharged for non-payment of dues shall not be admitted to membership in any other Lodge until the same are paid or remitted. The receipt or certificate from the Secretary of the Lodge of which the applicant was last a member, shall be satisfactory evidence that his dues have been liquidated.

SECT. 3. — The Master of any Lodge under this jurisdiction, who has faithfully discharged his duties and complied with the laws af the Grand Lodge, shall at the end of his first year, be presented by the District Deputy Grand Master with a Past Master's Diploma.

SECT. 4. — Any Lodge may take cognizance of the conduct of any sojourning Brother or Brethren, not at-

tached to any particular Lodge, upon a charge of unmasonic conduct.

SECT. 5. — No Lodge shall encourage, promote, or permit the delivery of any Masonic lectures, which have not been sanctioned and authorized by the Grand Lodge. Nor shall any Mason be permitted to deliver such lectures under this jurisdiction.

SECT. 6. — No Lodge shall form a public procession, except to attend the funeral of a Master Mason, without permission from the Grand Master (or, in his absence, the Deputy Grand Master), or the District Deputy Grand Master, within whose District it is located.

SECT. 7. — No Mason can be interred with the formalities of the Order, unless it be at his own special request, without a Dispensation from the Grand Master; nor under any circumstances, unless he has been advanced to the degree of a Master Mason.

SECT. 8. — No Lodge, or officer or member of a Lodge, shall, under any circumstances, give a certificate or recommendation to enable a Mason to proceed from Lodge to Lodge as a pauper, or in an itinerant manner to apply to Lodges for relief.

SECT. 9. — It shall not be permitted to introduce political or other exciting topics for discussion in any Lodge under this jurisdiction.

SECT. 10. — A Lodge ought to meet once in each calendar month, but may, with propriety, adjourn during the summer months of June, July and August.

SECT. 11. — The Master of a Lodge has the special charge of its Charter, and it it is his duty to see that it is

carefully preserved. It must be present whenever the Lodge is opened.

SECT. 12. — A visiting Brother, having produced his Grand Lodge certificate, or Diploma, has a right to call for the Charter of the Lodge he desires to visit.

SECT. 13. — No Brother shall be a member of more than one Lodge; nor shall he hold more than one office in the same Lodge, or in Grand Lodge, at the same time.

SECT. 14. — The removal of a Brother into another jurisdiction does not, of itself, authorize his name to be stricken from the roll of the Lodge of which he is a member.

SECT. 15. — No Mason, not a member of some subordinate Lodge, shall be allowed to visit the same Lodge in the place where he resides more than twice, without the permission of the Master or vote of the Lodge.

SECT. 16. — No Lodge can suspend the operation of a By-Law; nor, at a *Special* Meeting, alter or amend any part of the proceedings of a *Stated* one.

SECT. 17. — No Brother ought to be elected Master of a Lodge who has not served at least one year in the office of Warden.

SECT. 18. — No Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons can legally assemble in this Commonwealth under a Warrant granted by any foreign Masonic power.

SECT. 19. — It shall not be legal for any Lodge to interfere with the business or concerns of another Lodge.

SECT. 20. — Any vote passed in the Grand Lodge, or by any subordinate Lodge, may be reconsidered at the same meeting, or at the next subsequent meeting, pro-

vided notice of the intention to move for such a reconsideration shall be given at the meeting at which the vote was originally passed.

SECT. 21. — A Lodge or Brother offending against any law or regulation of the Craft, or of this Grand Lodge, to the breach of which no penalty is attached, shall, at the discretion of the Grand Lodge, be subject to admonition, suspension or expulsion.

SECT. 22. — No permanent regulation of this Grand Lodge shall be repealed or amended at the meeting at which such repeal or amendment is proposed, nor until it has been duly considered by a committee, to be chosen by the Grand Lodge at a previous Quarterly Communication. And every Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, within the territorial limits of Massachusetts, shall be served by the Recording Grand Secretary with an attested copy of such proposed repeal or amendment within thirty days after the meeting at which such repeal or amendment is proposed. A majority of two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for the adoption of any amendment.

SECT. 23. — No Lodge shall apply for, receive, or act under any corporate Charter granted by any Legislature or political government; and the receiving such Charter of incorporation, or acting thereunder by any Lodge under this jurisdiction, shall operate as a surrender and revocation of its Masonic Charter or Warrant from this Grand Lodge.

Part Sixth.

RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND LODGE.

RULE 1. — None but members of the Grand Lodge — past or present officers of other Grand Lodges excepted — shall be present at the opening of the same; nor shall any visitor be admitted during the session, except by permission of the Grand Master.

2. — All members and visitors shall keep the seats assigned them, except the Grand Marshal and officers whose duties may call them about the Lodge.

3. — All resolutions shall be submitted in writing before there shall be any debate upon them; as shall all motions, if the Grand Master or any Brother desire it.

4. — All matters in Grand Lodge are to be decided by vote, each member having one vote only, unless the question be taken by ballot, when, if he be entitled to two votes, he may give them. The Grand Master shall be entitled to one vote on all questions, and may also give the casting vote whenever there shall be an equal division.

5. — Each member shall vote on all questions, except when he is personally interested, unless specially excused by the Grand Lodge.

6. — No Brother shall speak more than twice to the

same question, unless in explanation, without permission of the Grand Master.

7. — Every member who speaks shall rise and remain standing, addressing himself to the Grand Master; nor shall any Brother presume to interrupt him, except on a point of order.

8. — When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, except to amend, commit, lay upon the table, or adjourn.

9. — A motion to amend, until decided, shall preclude all other amendments of the main question.

10. — Any member may call for a division of the question where the same will admit of it.

11. — No new motion, which totally changes the subject-matter on which the original motion was intended to operate, shall be admitted, under color of amendment, as a substitute for the motion under debate.

12. — No member, except one of the majority which decided the question, shall be allowed to move for a reconsideration.

13. — After a motion is stated by the Grand Master, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the Grand Lodge, but may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or amendment.

14. — There shall be no debate upon any question after it is put by the Grand Master.

15. — All motions and reports may be committed at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge.

16. — While the Grand Master is addressing the Grand Lodge, or putting a question, or a Brother is speaking,

no member shall entertain any private discourse, nor pass between the speaker and the chair.

17. — All communications, petitions, appeals, resolutions, propositions, and motions, shall be couched in decent and respectful language, or they shall not be entertained in Grand Lodge.

18. — No Brother shall leave the Grand Lodge during the session, without permission of the Grand Master.

19. — If any member shall have been twice called to order for transgressing these Rules, and shall nevertheless be guilty of a third offence, at the same meeting, the Grand Master shall peremptorily command him to take his seat, and he shall not be permitted to speak again during that session of the Grand Lodge.

DEFINITIONS.

1. — *Ample Form.* The Grand Lodge is declared to be opened in *Ample Form* when the Grand Master presides.

2. — *In Due Form*, when the Deputy Grand Master presides. And —

3. — *In Form*, when it is opened in the absence of both the Grand Master and his Deputy.

4. — *Discharged Member.* This term is applied to a member of a Lodge who has been discharged for non-payment of his quarterly dues, or other violation of the local rules of his Lodge.

5. — *Suspension.* The suspension of a Brother excludes him from all his Masonic privileges, and prohibits all Masonic intercourse between him and his Brethren during the time of his suspension.

6. — *Expulsion.* This is the highest penalty that can be incurred, and the severest punishment that can be inflicted for any violation of Masonic engagements. It excludes a Mason from all his Masonic rights and privileges forever, unless he be restored by the Grand Lodge. It ought never to be exercised but with extreme caution, and in cases where a lighter punishment would be of no avail.

7. — *Summons and Notification.* These terms are used in the old regulations, and, by many of the Grand Lodges in this country, synonymously. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts makes the following distinction: —

A *Notification* is the notice by which the time, place, and hour (and frequently the business) of the Lodge are communicated to the members. This notice every Brother receiving it is expected to obey, unless his doing so would materially interfere with his *business* engagements. The obligation which it imposes is a general one; and the highest penalty incurred by a violation of it is forfeiture of membership.

A *Summons* is a call of authority; a citation to appear and answer to the charges therein set forth. Or, it is an imperative injunction to appear at a Special Meeting of the Lodge with which the Brother receiving it is affiliated; or to attend on the Grand Master, the District Deputy Grand Master, or any committee or other body authorized by the Grand Lodge to issue it. The obligation to obey it is special and obligatory on every Brother receiving it. The penalty for its non-observance is expulsion, unless the party offending be able to urge a pressing and positive necessity for his excuse.

8. — *The Lodge.* The term *Lodge* is generally understood to refer to the members of a particular Masonic association, or the place in which they meet. In a few of the States, it technically signifies the Ark of the Covenant, which is kept in the hall, and frequently carried in public processions. The ark is not used in our Lodges.

The *flooring*, or Master's carpet, is frequently called the Lodge.

9. — *The Flooring*, or *Carpet*, is a regularly arranged painting of the Masonic emblems on canvas. No Lodge should be without one.

10. — *The Trestle-Board*, or *Tracing-board*, "is for the Master to draw his designs upon;" or it is the board on which the designs of the Master are already drawn. The term is frequently used synonymously with *flooring* and *carpet*.

STANDING VOTES, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDERS OF THE GRAND LODGE, NOW IN FORCE.

Ordered, That from and after the passage of this Order, it shall not be regular to give more than one degree to the same individual on the same day, nor at a less interval than one month from his receiving the previous degree, unless a Dispensation shall have been obtained therefor. [*Adopted June 4, 1843.*]

Ordered, That it shall not be regular, hereafter, for any Lodge which does not usually issue written or printed notifications of its meetings, to ballot upon any application for the degrees when there is a Dispensation therefor, at any but Stated Monthly Meetings, without written or printed notifications to the members of the Lodge, with the name of the candidate borne thereon.

Voted, That the Recording Grand Secretary cause the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge to be annually hereafter published with the Proceedings.

Voted, That the Grand Master be authorized and empowered to draw upon the Grand Treasurer for such sums of money as are necessary to defray the expenses of the meetings of the District Deputy Grand Masters at the Annual and Quarterly Communications of the Grand

Lodge, and that the Grand Master in his Annual Address report such expenditures.

Voted, That, in the dedication of new Masonic halls, the Grand Lodge will pay the travelling expenses of its own officers, whenever, in the opinion of the Grand Master, the subordinate Lodge is unable to bear them.

Voted, That, in constituting new Lodges, the travelling expenses *only* of the Grand Officers shall be paid by the Grand Lodge.

Voted, That whenever the Grand Officers are invited to perform the ceremony of installation, either publicly or in private, the entire expense shall be borne by the subordinate Lodge.

Voted, That the Grand Master be requested to make a detailed report of the financial condition of the Grand Lodge in his Annual Address.

Voted, That the Recording Grand Secretary insert in his notifications for meetings of the Grand Lodge, the Part, Article, and Section of any proposed Amendment to the Grand Constitutions, which may be in order for deliberation at such meetings.

Ordered, That the Grand Lecturers be authorized to hold Quarterly Meetings, under the direction of the Grand Master, at the Masonic Temple, Boston, on Grand Lodge days, for the purpose of consultation, and of ad-

vising officers of subordinate Lodges; and that the expenses of such meetings be paid by the Grand Lodge upon the order of the Grand Master; and that the Grand Master, in his Annual Address, report such expenses. [*June 8, 1870.*]

Resolved, That it is the privilege of every affiliated Mason, in good and regular standing, to visit any Lodge, when not engaged in the transaction of private business; but that it is also the right of a sitting member of the Lodge to object to the admission of a visitor, giving his reasons therefor, if required by a majority vote of the members to do so; or, as the alternative, declaring, upon his honor as a Mason, that his reasons are such that he cannot, with propriety, disclose them to the Lodge. [*Adopted December 14, 1870.*]

Ordered, That any Lodge, neglecting to present its returns and Grand Lodge dues to the District Deputy Grand Master, at the time of his official visit to such Lodge, when demanded by him, shall not be permitted to work in any of the degrees of Masonry until such returns and dues are placed in the hands of the District Deputy Grand Master. [*Adopted June 14, 1871.*]

Voted, That the vote now in force requiring the Grand Constitutions to be printed annually be suspended until further ordered. [*March 12, 1873.*]

I. By-Laws of a subordinate Lodge should provide for the election or appointment of a Worshipful Master, Senior War-

den, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Tyler, and such other officers as may be deemed expedient, the first five always to be chosen by ballot.

II. A Lodge may, by its By-Laws, provide for the election, by ballot, of all officers and committees; but where there is no such provision the W. Master *alone* has the appointing power.

III. By-Laws should provide for the Regular Meetings of the Lodge; Special Meetings can be held only at the will and pleasure of the W. Master.

IV. By-Laws cannot provide for the removal of an officer, because when an officer (elected or appointed) has been installed, he cannot be removed, and ought not to resign, during his term, if he remains a member of the Lodge in good standing; for misdemeanor in office he may be suspended, subject to the action of the Grand Master or Grand Lodge. Should a vacancy occur from any cause, it cannot be permanently filled without a Dispensation from the Grand Master.

V. By-Laws cannot alter or abridge the duties of officers that are fixed by usage and the ritual, and ought not to define such duties; it is well for them, however, to set forth fully what is specially required of the Treasurer and Secretary.

VI. By-Laws cannot deprive a Brother of membership by any language therein; every Mason is entitled to due notice and trial before being deprived of any Masonic rights.

VII. In balloting, whether for degrees or for membership, the ballot must be *unanimous* to elect.

VIII. By-Laws cannot regulate the Aprons, Collars, or Jewels, to be worn by officers or members, they being determined by the Grand Constitutions.

IX. By-Laws should not contain extracts from the Grand

Constitutions as any part thereof. Such forms as may be needed for general reference might very properly be put in a supplement or foot-note; but, if this is done, great care should be taken to promptly insert such amendments as may be made by the Grand Lodge.

X. Each code of By-Laws should set forth the fees for degrees and membership, the annual dues, and a description of the seal of the Lodge.

[*Recommended by the Committee on By-Laws, and adopted by the Grand Lodge, June 11, 1873; and ordered to be printed with the Standing Regulations in the Grand Constitutions.*]

SINKING FUND.

For the purpose of defraying the indebtedness of the Grand Lodge, removing the incumbrances upon the Temple, and placing the Charity Fund upon an independent basis, it is hereby ordered and decreed by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, as follows: —

That the sum of one dollar, as Grand Lodge dues, shall be paid on the first day of September, annually, for the term of thirteen years, by every affiliated Mason under our jurisdiction.

Said sum shall be collected by the Lodges of their members, and paid to the District Deputy Grand Masters, at their annual visits.

Any member, by paying the sum of ten dollars at one time, shall thereafter be exempt from the operation of this decree.

No non-affiliated Mason, residing in the State of Massachusetts, shall visit any Lodge without first paying the sum of twenty-five cents at each visit, which sum shall be paid by the Lodges to the District Deputy Grand Master, as before ordered.

Said moneys shall constitute the sinking fund of the Grand Lodge, to which all moneys unappropriated at the end of each year shall be added, and the same shall be separately invested by the Grand Treasurer, under the direction of the Board of Directors, and pledged to the payment of the debt upon the Temple.

The Grand Treasurer, at the Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge, shall make a full and exact report of the sinking fund, of the amount received from each Lodge, the amount invested, and how much invested, and of all matters relating thereto. [*March 13, 1867.*]

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge hereby pledges the faith of the Fraternity of the Commonwealth to sustain the Grand Master and the Board of Directors in completing and paying for the New Masonic Temple, now being erected in this city. [*Adopted June 12, 1867.*]

STATIONS OF THE GRAND OFFICERS IN THE GRAND LODGE.

THE M.W. GRAND MASTER,

In the East, at the Head of the Grand Lodge.

THE R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,

In the East, next to and left of the Grand Master.

THE R.W. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN,

In the West.

THE R.W. JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN,

In the South.

THE R.W. PAST GRAND MASTERS,

In the East, at the right of the Grand Master, and the Junior Past Grand Master next to the Grand Master.

THE R.W. PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS,

In the East, at the right of the Past Grand Masters.

THE R.W. PAST GRAND WARDENS,

In the East, at the right of the Past Deputy Grand Masters.

THE R.W. GRAND TREASURER,

On the right, in front of the Grand Master.

THE R.W. RECORDING GRAND SECRETARY,

On the left, in front of the Grand Master.

THE R.W. CORRESPONDING GRAND SECRETARY,

On the left, next to the Recording Grand Secretary.

THE R.W. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS,

In the East, on the left of the Deputy Grand Master.

THE W. AND REV. GRAND CHAPLAINS,

In the East, the Senior upon a raised dais in front of the Grand Master and between him and the Past Junior Grand Master; and the Junior upon a raised dais upon the left of the Grand Master and between him and the Deputy Grand Master, both being upon a lower grade than that of the Grand Master and that of the officers upon his right and left.

THE W. GRAND MARSHAL,

Upon the left of the Grand Master, in front of the Grand Secretary.

THE W. GRAND LECTURERS,

The first and second on the right of the Senior Grand Deacon, and the third in the West, at the left of Senior Grand Warden.

THE W. SENIOR GRAND DEACON,

Upon the right of the Grand Master, in front of the Grand Treasurer.

THE W. JUNIOR GRAND DEACON,

In the West, at the right of the Senior Grand Warden.

THE W. GRAND STEWARDS,

In the South, two upon the right, and two upon the left of the Junior Grand Warden, upon each side, one Steward in front of the other.

THE W. GRAND SWORD-BEARER,

At the left of the Grand Marshal.

THE W. GRAND STANDARD-BEARER,

At the left of the Grand Sword-Bearer.

THE W. GRAND PURSUIVANTS,

Near the door of entrance to the Grand Lodge, and whose duty it is "to receive all reports from the Grand Tyler, to announce the name and Masonic rank of all who desire admission, and to see that none enter without wearing their appropriate decorations."

BRO. GRAND ORGANIST,

At the Organ.

BRO. GRAND TYLER,

Outside of the entrance to the Grand Lodge.

INDEX.

INDEX.

PAGE.

Absence, in the, of Master and Wardens no degree can be conferred 45
Accusations against a Brother to be in writing 26
signed by a Master Mason . 26
how served upon accused . . . 26
when may be examined *ex parte* 27
Accused Brother, in what cases summons may be issued to . . 26
may select any Brother as counsel . . . 27
Act of Incorporation 3
Admission of visitors, how restricted 59
right of sitting member to object to . . 59
to Grand Lodge granted by Grand Master . 51
to any Lodge, proper clothing necessary for . . . 33
the Fraternity, how far barred by physical deformity . 44
unanimous vote required for . . 43
Admonition, when may be inflicted 50
Advancement of candidate, how to be stopped 45
initiated in another State, when permitted 45
Aggrieved Brother may appeal to Grand Lodge 29
Alteration of proceedings of a Lodge, restriction upon . . . 49
Amendment of Constitutions, restriction upon 50
to be borne on notifications for meetings of Grand Lodge . . . 58
proceedings of a Lodge, restriction upon . . 49
Ample Form, definition of 54
Anniversary of St. John the Evangelist 8
Annual dues from a Lodge to Grand Lodge 39, 62
returns of Lodges, to whom made 37
of what to consist 37
penalty for neglect to make . . . 37, 59
Appeal 29
how to be commenced and prosecuted 30

Appeals to Grand Lodge to be in decent and respectful language . 53
Applicant, unanimous vote required for admission of . . . 43
rejected, on what conditions may be initiated in another Lodge 42
what recommendation required for initiation of 42
to be deemed clandestine Mason in certain case 43
standing of, when admitted in another State . 43
permission of Grand Master required for admission in another State 43
when requires to be healed 43
penalty for recommending in certain case . 43
assisting at initiation of in certain case 43
rejection of, when to be communicated to Grand Lodge . 42
D.D.G. Master 43
Lodges . . 43
Application for initiation, how made 31
form of 31
every member present shall vote on, unless excused 44
to what Lodge to be made . . . 44
when may be made to Lodge nearest to residence 44
permitted in town other than of residence 44
from another State must have permission of Grand Master of that State . . 45
ballot upon, when and what notifications required previous to 57
Appointed Grand Officers, who are 11
may be installed by Deputy Grand Master 12
Apprentices' Entered, Lodge, what business to be done in . . 47
Aprons of Grand Officers 32
Apron of Deputy Grand Master 32
Grand Master 32
Master Mason 33
Assisting at work of a Lodge under suspension or forfeiture, penalty for 25
Auditing Committee, duties of 22
of whom to consist and how chosen . . 22
Authority, foreign Masonic, not to have effect in this State . . 49
Ballot for candidate for initiation, requisites before 42, 57
when allowed 42, 57
forbidden 42, 57
Grand Officers, when and how to be taken . . . 10

Ballot upon applications, when forbidden 57
Behavior in Grand Lodge 53
disorderly, how punished . . . 53
Board of Directors, how composed 6
and when chosen 6
duties of 6, 7
may appoint Clerk 6
President of 7
when to enter upon duties 7
meetings of, how called 7
powers of. 7
vacancies in, how and when filled . . . 6
to report at Annual Meeting 7
Board, Tracing, definition of 56
Trestle " " 56
Bonds of Grand Treasurer 14
Breach of regulations, how punished 50
Brother aggrieved may appeal to Grand Lodge 29
Business, what to be transacted in a Lodge open on each degree . 47
By-Laws of a Lodge cannot be suspended 49
must be approved by Grand Lodge before Charter issues 23
to be returned when Charter revoked or surrendered 24
outline of what they should contain . . 60
Corporation authorized to make 5
Candidate, ballot for, when forbidden 42, 57
permitted 42, 57
preliminaries to 42, 57
to what Lodge must apply 44
when may apply to Lodge nearest to his residence . 44
duty of Lodge in regard to 44
unanimous vote required for admission of . . . 43
initiation of 41
form of petition for 41
how advancement of, may be stopped 45
not to receive either degree in absence of Master and Wardens 45
only one to be present at certain periods . . . 45
from another State must have consent of Grand Master of that State 45
admitted in another State on what conditions advanced in this 45
rejected, on what conditions may be initiated in another Lodge 42

Candidate, rejected, penalty for recommending in certain case . 43
assisting at initiation of in certain case 43
standing of, when admitted in another jurisdiction 43
permission of Grand Master required for admission in another State 43
to be deemed a clandestine Mason in certain case 43
when requires to be healed 43
rejection of, when to be communicated to Grand Lodge . 42
D.D.G. Master 43
Lodges . . 43
Candidates, not more than five to receive either degree at one Communication 45
Capitation tax 62
Carpet, Master's, definition of 56
Celebration of Anniversary of St. John the Evangelist . . . 8
Ceremonies, expenses of certain, by whom paid 57, 58
Chair of a Lodge, service as Warden a qualification for . . . 49
Chairmen of committees of Grand Lodge, duties of . . . 31
Change of subject-matter by new motion not allowed . . . 52
Chaplain, Grand, appointed by Grand Master 18
who may be installed as proxy for . . . 12
duties of 18
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
of a Lodge, jewel of 33
Charges, when may be examined *ex parte* 27
where and how examined 27
Charity Fund, Grand 21
Charter for new Lodge, on what conditions granted . . . 23
fee for 23
by whom issued 9
revoked 9
suspended 9
forfeiture of 9, 24, 25
revocation of 9, 24, 25, 39
surrender of 24, 25
conditions of restoration of 25
in special charge of Master 48
must be present whenever Lodge is opened . . . 49
prescribes place of meeting 37
when to be returned 38
may be revoked for refusal to obey summons . . . 38

Charter may be revoked for refusal to produce books and papers . 38
right of visiting Brother to call for 49
from political government forbidden 50
forfeits Masonic Charter . . 50
Clandestine Mason, who to be deemed 43
not allowed to visit any Lodge 43
Craft forbidden to hold Masonic intercourse with 43
Clothing, proper, necessary for admission to any Lodge . . . 33
Collar of Deputy Grand Master 32
Grand Master 32
Junior Grand Warden 32
officer of a Lodge 33
Senior Grand Warden 32
Collars of the Grand Officers 32
Commission of proxy of a Lodge, form of 40
when expires 41
to be issued annually . . . 41
whom issued 39, 40
Committee, Auditing, duties of 22
Library 20
may be ordered by Grand Lodge upon any motion or report 52
of Grand Lodge, power of 38
Committees of Grand Lodge, by whom appointed 30
who eligible 30
when to report 30
who to be chairmen of . . . 31
duty of chairmen of 31
expenses of, how paid . . . 31
Communications, no Lodge to hold more than one in a day . . 45
of Grand Lodge, when and where held . . 8
how notified 8, 15
special, by whom called . . 8
of a Lodge, when should be held 48
may be omitted 48
to Grand Lodge must be in decent and respectful language 53
Commutation of capitation tax 62
Conduct of members in Grand Lodge 53
a speaker in Grand Lodge 52
disorderly, in Grand Lodge, how punished 53
Conferring degrees, order limiting 57
objection to, who may make 45
when to be made 45
how to be treated 45

Conferring degrees in absence of Master and Wardens forbidden . 45
either degree on more than five candidates at one meeting forbidden 45
Consent, what, required for initiation in town other than residence . 44
before advancing candidate admitted in another State 45
Constitution of new Lodge, by whom performed 24
expense of, by whom paid . . . 58
Constitutions, repeal or amendment of, restrictions upon . . 50
amendments to, must be borne on notifications . . 58
to be annually published 57
this vote suspended until further ordered . . . 59
Corporation, style and title of 5
Clerk of, by whom appointed 6
seal of 6
Corresponding Grand Secretary, duties of 16
who eligible to office of . . 9
jewel of 31
station of in Grand Lodge . . 64
Counsel for accused Brother must be a Mason 27
Deacons, Grand, duties of 18
Deacon, Grand, jewel of 31
Junior, station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Senior " " " " 65
of a Lodge, jewel of 33
Death of certain Grand Officers, proceedings in case of . . . 10
Debate in Grand Lodge, rules governing 52
not allowed after question is put by Grand Master 52
Debt on the Temple, how to be paid 62
faith of the Fraternity pledged to pay . . 63
Declaration by Grand Officers before installation, form of . . 12
Declination of certain Grand Officers, proceeding in case of . . 10
Dedication of new halls, expenses of, by whom paid . . . 57
Definitions 54
Definition of "Ample Form" 54
"In due Form" 54
"In Form" 54
"Discharged Member" 54
"Suspension" 54
"Expulsion" 54
"Summons" 55
"Notifications" 55
"The Lodge" 55
"The Flooring" 56

Definition of "The Master's Carpet" 56
"The Trestle Board" 56
"The Tracing Board" 56
Deformity, physical, how far a bar to admission to the Fraternity . 44
Degree, objection to conferring a, who may make 45
when to be made 45
how to be treated 45
never to be conferred on more than five at one meeting . 45
what business to be transacted in Lodge, open on each . 47
Degrees, form of petition for 41
petition for, must be presented at stated monthly meeting . 42
dispensation for, when required 42, 45, 57
petition for, to what Lodge to be presented . . . 44
not to be conferred in absence of Master and Wardens . 45
order limiting the conferring 57
fee for 45
to be paid in cash 45
Delegating right to vote in Grand Lodge not allowed . . . 11
Deputy Grand Master, who eligible to office of 9
by whom to be installed 12
may install appointed Grand Officers . . 12
who may be installed as proxy for . . 12
duties of 13
powers of 13, 48
when may call meetings of Grand Officers . 13
special meetings . . . 13
to be Grand Master *ex officio* . . 14
jewel of 31
collar of 32
apron of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
Masters, Past, station of, in Grand Lodge . . 64
jewel of 32
District, duties of . . 17, 36, 37, 38, 47, 59
who eligible to office of . . 9
when to visit Lodges . . . 14
may grant dispensations . . 17
expenses of, what and how paid . 17, 57
receipt of, to Grand Treasurer . 17
station of in Grand Lodge . . 64
Deviation from established work improper 39
how prevented 39
Diplomas, how furnished 39
Diplomas, Past Master's, upon whom to be conferred . . . 47
when to be conferred 47

Diplomas, Past Masters, by whom to be conferred 47
Discharged Member, definition of 54
Discourse, private, forbidden in Grand Lodge 53
Discussions, political, forbidden in a Lodge 48
Disorderly behavior in Grand Lodge, how punished 53
Dispensation, Lodge under, not entitled to representation in Grand Lodge 24
for the degrees, when required 42, 45, 57
required for Masonic funeral in certain cases . . 48
conferring more than one degree on same day 57
degrees at less interval than one month 57
for new Lodge, by whom issued 9, 22
revoked 9
suspended 9
granted 9, 22
to whom issued 22
form of petition for 23
fee for 23
Disqualification to visit or join any other Lodge 25
Districts, Lodges to be formed into 35
District Deputy Grand Master, who eligible to office of . . . 9
duties of . . . 17, 34, 36, 44, 45
jewel of 30
how differs from that of other Grand Officers . . 30
powers of . . 17, 35, 37, 47, 48
station of, in Grand Lodge . . 64
Division of funds of a Lodge, how punished 25
question may be called for in Grand Lodge . . . 52
Dress in Grand Lodge 31
Dues, annual, to Grand Lodge 39, 62
non-payment of, penalty for . . 59
to a Lodge, non-payment of, highest penalty for . . . 29
bars admission to any other until paid 47
payment of, Secretary's receipt sufficient evidence of 47
Due form, definition of 54
Duty of a Lodge in regard to candidates 44
Master of a Lodge 39
Warden of a Lodge 39
Duties of Auditing Committee 22
Board of Directors 62

Duties of Chairmen of Committees of Grand Lodge 31
Deputy Grand Master 13
District Deputy Grand Master . . . 17, 36, 38, 47, 48
Grand Chaplain 18
Deacons 18
Lecturers 19
Marshal 18
Officers 13
Pursuivants 19
Secretary, Recording 15, 43, 57
Corresponding 16
Stewards 18
Sword-Bearer 19
Treasurer 14, 63
Tyler 22
Wardens 14
Lodges 37, 44
Egress from Grand Lodge not allowed without permission of Grand Master 53
Elected officer not to act until installed 12
Election of Grand Officers, time and manner of 10
successors of, in case of vacancy . . 10
Recording Grand Secretary, time and manner of . . 10
Grand Treasurer, time and manner of 10
Wardens " " " " 10
Elective Officers, by whom to be installed 12
Eligible, who, to certain offices 9
an office in Grand Lodge 10
Eligibility of certain Grand Officers, limit to 10
Entered Apprentice's Lodge, what business to be done in . . 47
Examination of charges, when, where and how to be made . . 27
Excuse, Lodge may, a member from voting, on an application . 44
Expenses of Committees of Grand Lodge, how paid 31
constituting Lodges, by whom paid 58
dedicating halls " " " 57
D.D.G. Masters, what and how paid 17, 57
installing officers, by whom paid 58
Quarterly meetings of Grand Lecturers, how paid . 59
Expulsion, definition of the term 54
when may be inflicted 50
from the Craft, power of, in Grand Lodge alone . . 9
cause for 25
proceedings in case of 26
sentence of, must be confirmed by Grand Lodge . . 28

Expulsion from other Masonic Bodies not to affect relations to Lodge. 29
Masonry not to be inflicted for non-payment of dues 29
Fee, annual, due from a Lodge to Grand Lodge 39
for Charter 23
Dispensation for new Lodge 23
each initiate, to be paid to Grand Lodge 39
the degrees 45
must be paid in cash 45
Visitors', required of non-affiliated Masons 62
Fellow Craft's Lodge, what business to be done in 47
Finances of Grand Lodge, Grand Master requested to report annually 58
Flooring, the, definition of 56
Foreign Masonic power cannot authorize Lodge to assemble legally in this State 49
Forfeiture of Charters 24, 25
for neglect to make annual returns . . 37
holding meetings in place other than named in Charter 37
Masonic Charter by acceptance of Act of Incorporation 50
Form, In, definition of 54
Ample, definition of 54
Due " " 54
of application for initiation 41
declaration of Grand Officers before installation . . 12
letter appointing proxy in Grand Lodge 40
petition for Dispensation for new Lodge 23
receipt from D.D.G. Master to Grand Treasurer . . 17
Fund, Grand Charity 21
Sinking, of what composed 62
how collected 62
by whom invested 62
pledged to payment of debt on Temple . . . 62
annual report on, required from Grand Treasurer . 63
Funds of a Lodge to be returned when Charter is revoked or surrendered 24
Funeral, Masonic, when allowed 48
Gauntlets of Grand Officers 33
Government of Grand Lodge, rules for 51
Grand Chaplains appointed by Grand Master 18
duties of 18
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 64

Grand Charity Fund 21
Deacons, duties of 18
jewel of 31
Deacon, Junior, station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Senior, " " " " " 65
Lecturers, duties of 19
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
jewel of 32
authorized to hold Quarterly Meetings . . . 59
expenses of Quarterly Meetings of, how paid . 59
Lodge, powers of 8, 30
government of, rules for 51
opening of, who to be present at 51
who admitted as visitors in 51
seats in, not to be changed 51
right of voting in 51
each Lodge entitled to three votes in 41
dues to be paid by a Lodge 39, 62
number of speeches on same question allowed in . 52
Marshal, duties of 18
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Master, who eligible to office of 9
time and manner of election of 10
by whom to be installed 11
may be installed by proxy 11
powers and prerogatives of, 11, 13, 34, 36, 37, 38, 47, 48, 51, 57
may convene any Lodge 13
suspend a Brother or a Lodge 13
collar of 32
jewel of 31
apron of 32
death of, proceedings in case of 10, 14
declination of, proceedings in case of 10
resignation of, proceedings in case of 10, 14
election of successor to, in case of vacancy . . 10
to appoint certain Grand Officers 11
power of, over Lodge of instruction 34
over Districts 36
may authorize a Lodge to meet in place other than that named in Charter 37
permission of, in what case required for initiation . 42, 43
votes of, in Grand Lodge 51
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
who to succeed in case of death of 14

Grand Master, who to succeed in case of resignation of . . . 14
Deputy, by whom to be installed 12
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
collar of 32
jewel of 31
apron of 32
District Deputy, powers and duties of 17, 36, 38, 47, 48
station of, in Grand Lodge . . 64
when to visit Lodges . . . 17
jewel of 31
Past, jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
Past Deputy, jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge . . . 64
Officer, when to be installed 11
number of votes may cast 18
Officers, who elected and who appointed 11
rank and titles of 7
qualifications of 9
installation of 8
death of certain, proceedings in case of . . . 10
declination of certain, proceedings in case of . . 10
resignation of certain, proceedings in case of . . 10
appointed, may be installed by Deputy Grand Master 12
declaration of, before installation 12
duties of 13
powers of 13
collars of 32
jewels of 31
aprons of 32
gauntlets of 33
stations of, in Grand Lodge 64
Organist, station of, in Grand Lodge 65
jewel of 32
Pursuivants, station and duties of 19, 65
jewel of 32
Secretary, Corresponding, duties of 16
station of, in Grand Lodge . . 64
jewel of 31
Recording, time and manner of election of . . 10
death of, proceedings in case of . . 10
declination of, proceedings in case of . 10
resignation of, proceedings in case of . 10
election of successor to . . . 10
duties of 15, 43, 57

Grand Secretary, Recording, station of, in Grand Lodge . . . 64
jewel of 31
to notify all Lodges of cases of healing 43
Standard-Bearer, jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Stewards, duties of 18
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Sword-Bearer, rank and duties of 19
jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Treasurer, duties of 14, 62
to give bonds 14
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
time and manner of election of 10
election of successor to 10
death of, proceedings in case of 10
declination of, proceedings in case of . . . 10
resignation of, proceedings in case of . . . 10
Tyler, duties of 20
jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Warden, death of, proceedings in case of 10
declination of, proceedings in case of 10
resignation of, proceedings in case of 10
Junior, station of, in Grand Lodge 64
in absence of, who to wear jewel . . . 14
Past, jewel of 32
Senior, station of, in Grand Lodge 64
Wardens, limit to eligibility of 10
time and manner of election of 10
election of successor to 10
duties of 14
collars of 32
Past, station of, in Grand Lodge 64
in absence of all, who to act 14
Halls, expenses of dedication of, by whom paid 57
Healing, notice of, to be communicated to all Lodges . . . 43
Hindrance to admission to the Fraternity, what constitutes a . . 44
Incorporation, Act of 3
by political government forbidden 50
Initiation of candidates 41
conditions to be fulfilled before . . . 41, 42
how far barred by physical deformity . . 44

Initiation of candidates, application for, how made 41
to what Lodge to be made . 44
form of 41
when permitted in town other than of residence 44
unanimous vote required for . . . 43
rejected, preliminaries requisite to . . 42
Initiate fee to be paid Grand Lodge 39
Installation of Deputy Grand Master, by whom conducted . . 11
elective " Officers " " " . . 12
Grand Master " " " . . 11
may be by proxy 11
Officers 8, 11
Installing officers of a Lodge, expenses of, by whom paid . . 58
Instructions, Lodge of 34
who answerable for proceedings of a . . 34
responsible for mode of working . . 34
may be members of a 35
must keep a record of proceedings . . . 34
officers . . . 34
visitors . . . 34
power of Grand Master over 34
Lodge sanctioning, may demand records of . 34
Instruction of Lodges, upon whom devolves 39
Instruct representatives in Grand Lodge, right to 38
Interference in concerns of another Lodge forbidden . . . 49
Interruption of a speaker in Grand Lodge forbidden . . . 52
Itinerant Mason, certificate not to be given to 48
Jewels of Grand Officers 31
a Lodge 33
Jewel, what, to be worn by presiding officer other than Grand Master 14
of D.D.G. Master, how different from those of other Grand Officers 32
Corresponding Grand Secretary 31
Deputy Grand Master 31
District Deputy Grand Master 31
Grand Chaplain 31
Deacon 31
Lecturer 32
Marshal 31
Master 31
Organist 32
Pursuivant 32
Standard-Bearer 32
Steward 31

Jewel of Grand Sword-Bearer 32
Treasurer 31
Tyler 32
Junior Grand Warden 31
Past Deputy Grand Master 32
Grand Master 32
Warden 32
Recording Grand Secretary 31
Senior Grand Warden 31
an officer of a Lodge 33
Chaplain " " " 33
Deacon " " " 33
Junior Warden of a Lodge 33
Marshal " " 33
Master " " 33
Organist " " 33
Past Master " " 33
Secretary " " 33
Senior Warden " " 33
Steward " " 33
Treasurer " " 33
Tyler " " 33
requisite to entitle to vote in Grand Lodge 34
Joining another Lodge, right of, for what cause suspended . . 25
Junior Grand Deacon, station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Warden " " " " 64
Jurisdiction of Lodges not affected by municipal changes . . 37
Language in Grand Lodge to be decent and respectful . . . 53
Lecturers, Grand, duties of 19
jewels of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
authorized to hold Quarterly Meetings . . 59
expenses of Quarterly Meetings of, how paid . 59
Lectures, system of, by whom established 9
not sanctioned by Grand Lodge prohibited . . . 48
Letter appointing proxy in Grand Lodge, form of 41
Library committee, when and by whom appointed 20
Lodge, Dispensation for new, form of petition for 23
fee for 23
by whom issued 9, 22
suspended 9
revoked 9
under, not entitled to representation in Grand Lodge 24
Charter for new, on what conditions granted . . . 23

Lodge, Charter for new, fee for 22
by whom issued 9, 22
suspended 9
revoked 9
of a, in special charge of Master 47
must be present whenever Lodge is opened . 49
new, by whom to be constituted 24
jewels of officers of a 33
powers and duties of a 36, 44, 48
rights of a 36
meetings of, when should be held 48
may be omitted 48
cannot be opened unless Charter is present 49
membership in only one, permitted 49
only one office in a, permitted to be held 49
right to visit a, restricted in case of unaffiliated Masons . 49
By-Laws of, cannot be suspended 49
business of another, not to be interfered with . . . 49
duties of 36, 44, 48
duty of, in regard to candidates 44
Master of, how tried 28
removal of, requisites of petition for 37
must be sanctioned by D.D.G. Master . . 37
approved by Lodge nearest new location 37
to meet only in place named in Charter 37
warrant of a, what power can destroy 38
in whom vests in certain cases . . . 38
every, should be represented in Grand Lodge . . . 39
only one, can be represented in Grand Lodge by a Brother at one time 41
every, entitled to three votes in Grand Lodge . . . 41
limited to one Communication in a day 45
of Entered Apprentices, what business to be done in . . 47
Fellow Craft, what business to be done in . . . 47
Master Masons, what business to be done in . . . 47
Master of a, has special charge of Charter 48
powers of 49
duty of 36, 39, 48
towards D.D.G. Master 36
Wardens of a, duty of 39
Proxy of a, who may be 39
form of letter appointing 40
how commissioned 39
rights of 40
cannot vote when Master or Warden is present 40

Lodge, Proxy of a, to be appointed annually 41
can represent only one Lodge 41
when commission expires 41
The, definition of the term 55
Grand, dues, what paid by a Lodge 39, 62
every Lodge entitled to three votes in 41
opening of, who to be present at 51
who admitted as visitors in 51
seats in, not to be changed 51
right of voting in 51
rules for government of 51
number of speeches on same question allowed in . 51
Lodges shall be formed into Districts 36
by whom 36
returns of, when to be transmitted 17
items of 37, 62
to whom made 37, 62
penalty for neglect to make 37
expenses of constituting, by whom paid 58
installing officers of, by whom paid 58
instruction of, upon whom devolves 39
of instruction 34
who answerable for proceedings of . . 34
responsible for mode of working . . 34
may be members of 35
must keep a record of proceedings . . 34
visitors 34
officers 34
power of Grand Master over 34
Lodges sanctioning, may demand records of . 34
Majority of members of a Lodge may instruct representatives in Grand Lodge 38
proceedings when, determine to leave Institution or Lodge 38
Marshal, Grand, duties of 18
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
of a Lodge, jewel of 33
Mason, clandestine, who to be deemed 43
not allowed to visit any Lodge 43
Craft forbidden to hold Masonic intercourse with 43
Master, apron of 33
Masonic trials, how provided for 26
may be conducted by a Lodge 28
proceedings in, must be revised by Grand Lodge . 28

Masonic trials, Commissioners of 26
Masons, unaffiliated, restricted in visiting a Lodge 49, 62
Master's Carpet, definition of the term 56
Master, Grand, who eligible to office of 9
limit to eligibility of 10
time and manner of election of 10
proceedings in case of death of 10
declination of 10
resignation of 10
election of successor to 10
to appoint certain Grand Officers 11
by whom to be installed 11
may be installed by proxy 11
powers and prerogatives of, 11, 13, 34, 36, 37, 38, 43, 48 54.
may convene any Lodge 13
suspend a Brother or a Lodge 13
who to succeed in case of death of 14
resignation of 14
permission of, when required for initiation . . 43, 45
votes of, in Grand Lodge 51
power of, over Lodge of Instruction 34
Districts 36
may authorize Lodge to meet in place other than that named in Charter 37
collar of 32
apron of 32
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 62
Deputy, station of, in Grand Lodge 62
by whom to be installed 12
apron of 32
collar of 32
jewel of 31
District Deputy, duties of . . 17, 36, 38, 47, 48
when to visit Lodges 17
station of, in Grand Lodge . . 62
powers of . . 17, 36, 38, 47, 48
Mason, apron of 33
Mason's Lodge, what business to be done in 47
Masons only to be admitted to membership in a Lodge . 47
of a Lodge, duty of 36, 39, 48
powers of 49
jewel of 33
should have served as Warden 49

Master of a Lodge, when entitled to Past Master's Diploma . . 47
has special charge of Charter 48
must see that Charter is carefully preserved . 48
duty of, to D.D.G. Master 36
trial of 28
by whom may be impeached 28
delinquent, may be suspended 28
summoned for trial before Commissioners . . 28
refusal of, to obey summons, penalty for . . 38
produce Charter, books or papers . 38
Masters, Past, only eligible to certain offices in Grand Lodge . . 9
when may preside in Grand Lodge 14
act as Grand Warden 14
Deputy Grand, station of, in Grand Lodge . . 62
jewel of 32
Grand, station of, in Grand Lodge 62
jewel of 32
Meetings of a Lodge, place of, limited 37
when should be held 48
may be omitted 48
Grand Lodge, how notified 8, 15
special, by whom called 8, 13
Officers, by whom called 13
irregular if not approved by Grand Master 14
Member, discharged, definition of the term 54
right of sitting, to object to admission of visitor . . 59
Members of a Lodge must be Master Masons 47
Grand Lodge, rank and titles of 7
permanent, number of votes to be cast by 11
Membership in a Lodge not regained by restoration to Masonry . 30
not allowed to a Brother in arrears to another Lodge . 47
permitted in only one Lodge at a time 49
not necessarily terminated by removal 49
Motion in possession of Grand Lodge when stated by Grand Master 52
may be withdrawn by mover before amendment or decision 52
any, may be referred to committee by Grand Lodge . . 52
Motions in Grand Lodge must be in decent and respectful language 53
order of precedence of 52
must be in writing if desired 51
Neglect to make annual returns, penalty for 37
New Lodge, by whom constituted 24
Non-affiliated Masons required to pay a visitor's fee 62
Non-payment of dues by a Lodge, penalty for 59
to a Lodge, highest penalty for 29

Non-payment of dues excludes from membership in another Lodge 47
Notice of healing to be sent to all the Lodges 43
Notification, definition of the term 55
Notifications, requirements in regard to 42, 46
of Grand Lodge meetings to contain amendments to Constitutions 58
Special Meetings, when required 57
Objection to conferring a degree, who may make 45
when to be made 45
how to be treated 45
Obligation, official, of Grand Officers 12
Offence against the regulations, how punished 50
Offences against rules of Order in Grand Lodge, how punished . 53
Office, only one, to be held in Lodge at a time 49
Officer, no elected, to act until duly installed 12
Officers, Grand, rank and titles of 7
qualifications of 9
installation of 8
who elected and who appointed 11
when to be installed 11
elective, by whom to be installed 12
appointed, may be installed by Dep. G. Master . 12
declaration, or obligation of, before installation . 12
when installed to be proclaimed 12
to retain stations until successors are installed . 12
duties of 13
powers of 13
jewels of 31
collars of 32
aprons of 32
gauntlets of 33
stations of, in Grand Lodge 62
proceedings in case of death of 10
declination of 10
resignation of 10
certain, not to be Masters or Wardens of a Lodge . 9
number of votes to be cast by 11
of a Lodge, expenses of installing, by whom paid . . 58
Opening of Grand Longe, who to be present at 51
a Lodge forbidden unless Charter is present 48
Order of motions in Grand Lodge 52
violations of, in Grand Lodge, how punished 53
Orders, standing, now in force 57, 58, 59, 60, 62
Organist, Grand, jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 65

Organist of a Lodge, jewel of 33
Passing a candidate initiated in another State, when permitted . 45
Past Deputy Grand Master, jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge . . . 64
Grand Masters, station of, in Grand Lodge 64
jewels of 32
Warden, jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
Master of a Lodge, jewel of 33
Master's Diploma, upon whom to be conferred . . . 47
when to be conferred 47
by whom to be conferred 47
Masters only eligible to certain offices 9
when may act as Grand Wardens 14
preside in Grand Lodge 14
Pauper, certificate to travel as a, not to be given 48
Payment of dues, how certified 47
Penalty for neglect to make annual returns 37, 59
holding meetings of Lodge in other place than that named in Charter 37
refusing to comply with summons 38
produce Charter, books and papers . . 38
recommending rejected candidate in certain case . . 43
assisting at initiation of rejected candidate in certain case 43
refusing to surrender property of a Lodge . . . 25
voting to divide property of a Lodge 25
assisting at Work of suspended Lodge 25
violation of Rules of conduct in Grand Lodge . . 53
for offending against the regulations 50
Permanent members, number of votes to be cast by . . . 11
Permission of Grand Master for initiation, in what case required . 43, 44
Petition for Dispensation for new Lodge, requisites of . . . 22
form of 23
removal of a Lodge, requisites of 37
initiation, form of 41
to what Lodge to be presented . . . 44
every member present shall vote on, unless excused 44
to Grand Lodge must be in decent and respectful language 53
Physical deformity, how far a bar to admission to the Fraternity . 44
Political topics not to be introduced for discussion in a Lodge . . 48
Powers of the Grand Lodge 8, 29
and prerogatives of the Grand Master, 11, 13, 34, 35, 36, 37, 43, 48 51, 57.
of Deputy Grand Master 13, 48

Powers of the Board of Directors 7
District Deputy Grand Masters . . 17, 36, 38, 47, 48
Committee of Grand Lodge 38
Grand Officers 13
Lodges 36, 49
Master of a Lodge 49
Precedence of motions in Grand Lodge 52
Preside, who shall, in Grand Lodge, in the absence of certain officers 14
Presiding officer other than Grand Master, what jewel he shall wear 14
Private discourse in Grand Lodge forbidden 53
Processions, public, prohibited except in certain cases . . . 48
Proclamation of Grand Officers to be made by Grand Marshal . 12
Property of a Lodge, all to be returned when Charter is surrendered or revoked 24
Proposition for the degrees, requisites of 41, 42
form of 41
preliminaries to 42
every member shall vote on, unless excused 44
unanimous ballot required to accept . 43
Propositions in Grand Lodge to be in decent and respectful language 53
Proxy, Grand Master may be installed by 11
who may be installed as, for Grand Master 11
Deputy Grand Master . . 12
Grand Warden . . . 12
Treasurer . . . 12
Recording Grand Secretary . 12
any other officer . . . 12
of a Lodge, form of letter appointing 40
to be commissioned annually 41
when commission expires 41
can represent only one Lodge at a time . . 41
who may be 39
how commissioned 39
rights of 40
cannot vote when Master or Warden is present 40
Proxies, who may be installed as, for certain Grand Officers . . 12
Publication of the Constitutions required annually 57, 59
Pursuivant, Grand, jewel of 32
station of 19, 65
duties of 19
Qualifications of Grand Officers 9
Question, division of, may be called for in Grand Lodge . . . 52

Question, limit to speeches upon same, in Grand Lodge . . . 51
Raising a candidate passed in another State, when allowed . . 45
Rank of Grand Sword-Bearer 19
Members of Grand Lodge 7
Officers " " " 7
Receipt given by D.D.G. Master to Grand Treasurer, form of . 17
Recommendation required for initiation in town other than that of residence 44
what required before initiation of rejected candidate 42
Reconsideration of a vote, when and on what conditions allowed . 49, 52
Recording Grand Secretary, duties of 15, 43, 57
station of, in Grand Lodge . . . 64
to notify Lodges of cases of healing . 43
Records of Grand Lodge, original, to be in custody of Corresponding Grand Secretary 16
a Lodge to be returned when Charter is surrendered or revoked 24
must be approved by Grand Lodge before Charter issues 23
Refusal of Master or Wardens to comply with summons . . . 38
produce Charter, books or papers 38
to surrender property of a Lodge when Charter is forfeited, how punished 25
Regalia of Grand Lodge 31
a Lodge 33
to be returned when Charter is surrendered or revoked 24
Regulations, permanent, how to be altered or amended . . . 50
Rejected applicant, when to be deemed a clandestine Mason . . 43
on what conditions may be initiated in another Lodge 42
admitted in another jurisdiction, standing of . 43
permission of Grand Master required for admission of, in another State 43
when, requires to be healed 43
Rejection of candidate, when to be communicated to Grand Lodge . 42
D.D.G. Master 43
Lodges . . 43
Relief, certificate to enable to travel for, not to be given . . . 48
Removal does not authorize striking Brother's name from roll . 49
of a Lodge, requisites of petition for 37
must be sanctioned by D.D.G. Master . . 37
approved by Lodge nearest new location 37
Repeal of Constitutions, restrictions upon 50

Report, any, may be referred to committee by Grand Lodge . . 50
Representatives in Grand Lodge, by whom may be instructed . . 38
Residence, application in town other than that of, when permitted . 44
Resignation of certain Grand Officers, proceedings in case of . . 10
Resolutions to be submitted in Grand Lodge in writing . . . 51
in Grand Lodge to be in decent and respectful language 53
standing, now in force 57–63
Restoration 30
of Charters, conditions of 25
to Masonry does not restore to membership in a Lodge 30
Return of Charter of Lodge required when number of members falls below seven 38
Returns, annual, of Lodges 37
to whom made 37
of what to consist 37
penalty for neglect to make . . . 37, 59
when to be transmitted by D.D.G. Masters 17
Revocation of Charters 24
power of, in Grand Lodge alone . . . 9
Right of appeal to Grand Lodge 29
visiting a Lodge defined and restricted 59
Brother to call for Charter 49
to instruct representatives in Grand Lodge 38
Rights of Lodges 36
proxy of a Lodge 40
Rules for the government of the Grand Lodge 51
Sash of an officer of a Lodge 33
Seal of a Lodge to be returned when Charter is surrendered or revoked 24
the Corporation 6
to be kept and used by the Recording Grand Secretary 6
Seats in Grand Lodge not to be changed 51
Secretary, Corresponding Grand, who eligible to office of . . 9
duties of 16
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge . . 64
of a Lodge 33
Recording Grand, who eligible to office of . . . 9
election of, time and manner of . . 10
who may be installed as proxy for . 12
proceedings in case of death of . . 10
declination of . 10

Secretary, Recording Grand, proceedings in case of resignation of . 10
election of successor to . . . 10
duties of 15, 43, 57
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge . . . 64
to notify all the Lodges of cases of healing 43
Senior Grand Deacon, station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Warden, station of, in Grand Lodge 64
Sentence of Expulsion not to take effect until confirmed by Grand Lodge 28
Sinking Fund, of what composed 62
how collected 62
by whom invested 62
pledged to payment of debt on Temple . . . 62
annual report on, required from Grand Treasurer . 63
Sitting member, right of, to object to admission of visitor . . 59
Sojourning Brother, any Lodge may take cognizance of conduct of 47
Speak in Grand Lodge, right to, forfeited by certain offences . . 53
Speaker in Grand Lodge, how to conduct himself 51
interruption of a, not allowed . . . 52
Speaking in Grand Lodge, limit to 51
Special meeting, restriction upon proceedings at 49
of the Grand Lodge, who may call . . . 13
how notified 15
Standard-Bearer, jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
Standing votes, resolutions and orders now in force . . . 57–63
Stations of the Grand Officers, in the order of their rank . . 64
Grand Master 64
Deputy Grand Master . . . 64
Senior Grand Warden . . . 64
Junior Grand Warden . . . 64
Past Grand Masters 64
Past Deputy Grand Masters . . 64
Past Grand Wardens . . . 64
Grand Treasurer 64
Recording Grand Secretary . . 64
Corresponding Grand Secretary . 64
District Deputy Grand Masters . 64
Grand Chaplains 64
Grand Marshal 65
Grand Lecturers 65
Senior Grand Deacon . . . 65
Junior Grand Deacon . . . 65

Stations of the Grand Officers, Grand Stewards 65
Grand Sword-Bearer 65
Grand Standard Bearer 65
Grand Pursuivants 65
Grand Organist 65
Grand Tyler 65
Steward of a Lodge, jewel of 33
Steward, Grand, duties of 18
jewels of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
St. John the Evangelist, anniversary of 8
Subject-matter not to be totally changed by new motion . . . 52
Summons, definition of the term 55
to accused Brother, when to be issued 26
Surrender of Charters 24
Suspension, definition of the term 54
when may be inflicted 50
of By-Laws not permitted 49
right to visit or join another Lodge 25
proceedings in case of 26, 29
from other Masonic Bodies, not to affect relations to Lodge 29
Masonry not to be inflicted for non-payment of dues 29
Sword-Bearer, Grand, station of, in Grand Lodge 65
rank and duties of 19
jewel of 32
Tax, capitation 62
commutation of 62
Titles of members of Grand Lodge 7
officers of " " 7
Temple, debt on the, how to be paid 62
faith of the Fraternity pledged to pay . . 63
Topics, political, not to be introduced for discussion in a Lodge . 48
Tracing-Board, definition of the term 56
Treasurer, Grand, who eligible to office of 9
election of, time and manner of 10
proceedings in case of death of 10
declination of 10
resignation of 10
election of successor to 10
who may be installed as proxy for 12
duties of 14, 63
to give bonds 14

Treasurer, Grand, jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
of a Lodge, jewel of 33
Trestle-Board, definition of the term 56
Trials, Masonic, how provided for 26
optional with the Lodge 28
proceedings in, must be revised by Grand Lodge . 28
Commissioners of 26
Trustees of Grand Charity Fund 21
Tyler, Grand, duties of 20
jewel of 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 65
who may be installed as proxy for 12
of a Lodge, jewel of 33
Unaffiliated Masons restricted as to visiting Lodges 49
required to pay a visitor's fee 62
Unanimous vote required for admission to the Order . . . 43
Uniformity of work essential 39
how promoted 39
Violation of rules of order in Grand Lodge, how punished . . 53
Visit, members should be deputed to, other Lodges 39
Visiting a Lodge, right of, defined and restricted 59
for what cause suspended . . 25, 43, 49
any Lodge forbidden to a Clandestine Mason . . . 43
Brother, right of, to call for Charter 49
right of, restricted in case of non-affiliated Masons . . 49, 62
Visitors' fee required of non-affiliated Masons 62
Visitors in Grand Lodge, who admitted 51
to keep seats assigned . . . 51
Vote in Grand Lodge, limitations to right to 51
right of Grand Master to 51
every member must, unless excused . . 51
no member allowed to, without his jewel . 34
who entitled to 8, 34
every member present shall, on an application, unless excused 44
reconsideration of, when and on what conditions allowed . 49, 52
unanimous, required for admission to the Order . . . 43
Votes in Grand Lodge, every Lodge entitled to three . . . 41
number of, to be cast by a member . . 11
standing, now in force 57–63
Voting on an application, Lodge may excuse a member from . . 44
in Grand Lodge, right of, cannot be delegated . . . 11
Warden, Grand, who eligible to office of 9
limit to eligibility of 10
time and manner of election of 10

Warden, Grand, proceedings in case of death of 10
declination of 10
resignation of 10
who may be installed as proxy for 12
duties of 14
election of successor to 10
collar of 32
Junior, in absence of, who to wear jewel . . 14
jewel of 31
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
Senior " " " " 64
jewel of 31
Past " " 32
station of, in Grand Lodge 64
who to act in absence of every 14
of a Lodge, Junior, jewel of 33
Senior " " 33
service as, should precede election as Master . 49
duty of 39
refusal to obey summons, penalty for . . 38
produce Charter, books or papers . 38
Warrant of a Lodge, what power can destroy 38
in whom vests, in certain cases 38
granted by foreign Masonic power of no authority . . 49
Witnesses, how to testify 27
Work, system of, by whom established 9
uniformity of, essential 39
how promoted 39
Writing, motions and resolutions in Grand Lodge to be submitted in 51

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